

1992 The Times crossword
Solutions to the crossword
puzzles published in the
paper on 28 February and
1 March are as follows:
Across
1. The word 'and' is used
to connect two words
which are of equal rank
(10)
2. The word 'but' is used
to connect two words
which are of unequal rank
(10)
3. The word 'or' is used
to connect two words
which are of equal rank
(10)
4. The word 'nor' is used
to connect two words
which are of unequal rank
(10)
5. The word 'yet' is used
to connect two words
which are of equal rank
(10)
6. The word 'so' is used
to connect two words
which are of unequal rank
(10)
7. The word 'for' is used
to connect two words
which are of equal rank
(10)
8. The word 'because' is used
to connect two words
which are of unequal rank
(10)
9. The word 'as' is used
to connect two words
which are of equal rank
(10)
10. The word 'since' is used
to connect two words
which are of unequal rank
(10)
Down
1. The word 'and' is used
to connect two words
which are of equal rank
(10)
2. The word 'but' is used
to connect two words
which are of unequal rank
(10)
3. The word 'or' is used
to connect two words
which are of equal rank
(10)
4. The word 'nor' is used
to connect two words
which are of unequal rank
(10)
5. The word 'yet' is used
to connect two words
which are of equal rank
(10)
6. The word 'so' is used
to connect two words
which are of unequal rank
(10)
7. The word 'for' is used
to connect two words
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(10)
8. The word 'because' is used
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which are of unequal rank
(10)
9. The word 'as' is used
to connect two words
which are of equal rank
(10)
10. The word 'since' is used
to connect two words
which are of unequal rank
(10)

Missile site mushroom clouds blamed for deaths



The area around Sari Ozek in Kazakhstan, where it is claimed people are dying of radiation-related diseases

FROM JASPER BECKER
IN ALMA ATA

KAZAKH shepherds and their flocks are dying in mysterious circumstances around a secret military site, believed to have been used for dismantling the first generation of Soviet nuclear bombs.

Residents have become so alarmed that they are blaming the deaths on the destruction in the late 1980s of the nuclear missiles covered by the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty. "On our farm 15 people have died and so many of our sheep and cattle have dropped dead that we are close to starving," Bahdi Abrov Akybelyev said. His family lives on a collective farm with 3,000 members which borders on Sari Ozek in the Taldy Kurgan region close to Lake Balkhash and about 150km north of Alma Ata, capital of Kazakhstan.

The restricted zone covers about 100 square miles. Western experts

confirmed that people living close to the area had become increasingly "paranoid" in recent years over possible radioactive contamination. However, responsibility could not be blamed on the destruction of the INF missiles, they said.

American officials at the On-Site Inspection Agency in Washington, the body responsible for monitoring the destruction of the missiles, confirmed there had been considerable environmental pollution because of the methods used by the Russians.

"But there was no radiation involved because the warheads are removed and none of the missile parts is radioactive," an official at the US agency said last night.

The official, who confirmed that there was an INF missile elimination site in the Taldy Kurgan area, said: "If there had been radiation, we would have had a lot of Americans falling ill and dying as well." Mr Akybelyev remains convinced, however,

that there have been radioactive leaks in the area. The lack of official information has encouraged the community to believe that any explosions from the site have been radioactive.

Trained as a physics teacher, Mr Akybelyev came to Alma Ata when his family and other members of the collective farm asked him to plead their cause with the authorities. "We have seen blue-and-black mushroom clouds and the earth has trembled, shattering windows and cracking walls," he said.

The US official said that American inspectors who had monitored the Soviet missile decommissioning had been unhappy with the techniques being used. He said they tended to blow up the missiles, without their warheads, in unsophisticated ways, causing big explosions and the formation of "mushroom-shaped" clouds.

The last INF missiles were destroyed at the site in October 1989 but Mr Akybelyev said the explosions

have continued. An army at the Kazakhstan military headquarters in Alma Ata denied all knowledge of further explosions at Sari Ozek.

Large parts of Kazakhstan are a nuclear wasteland as it was here that Moscow has been testing its nuclear bombs. They were first exploded above ground and later an underground test centre was opened at Semipalatinsk in northeast Kazakhstan. It was closed in 1989 but not before an active anti-nuclear movement called "Semipalatinsk-Nevada" developed. Its symbol was a Red Indian and a Kazakh nomad sharing a peace pipe. After the wide publicity given to the radiation victims around Semipalatinsk, Mr Akybelyev is certain his people are suffering the same effects.

"At first we began to suffer headaches and high blood pressure, then in 1989 a number of young children died from leukaemia. Several older

TODAY IN THE TIMES

BILIOUS BRITON



Anthony Burgess tells why he will not yet return from exile
Life & Times Page 1

INSPIRING ENGLAND?



How much did Van Gogh's visit to Britain influence his work?
Life & Times Page 3

CLASSY, BUT CAMP



British skill with television costume sagas is still non-U
Page 12 and Life & Times Page 3

Irish judgment opens way to legal abortion

FROM EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Supreme Court in Dublin yesterday ruled that abortion is legal in Ireland under the constitution, prompting speculation that legislation may be introduced to allow it in certain circumstances.

The court was explaining the judgment it handed down last week, which overturned an injunction preventing a teenage rape victim from travelling abroad to terminate her pregnancy. The judges said they had reached their 4-1 majority decision because the girl might commit suicide if she was forced to have the baby.

Albert Reynolds, the prime

minister, who is expected to discuss the case with opposition leaders, refused to discuss the implications of the ruling until it had been studied in detail. A spokesman said, however, that the government was keeping its options open and a second referendum could still be held to amend the pro-life constitutional clause.

The ruling means that the girl, aged 14, could have an abortion in Ireland, although it is unlikely to be available to her. The Supreme Court has shown that despite the constitutional ban, the pro-life clause does provide for terminations in some cases. As this is the first time the amendment has been tested in the courts, no legal abortions have been performed in Ireland since the constitution was changed in 1983.

Mr Justice Thomas Finlay, the Lord Chief Justice, told a packed court yesterday that if it was established as a probability that there was a real or substantial risk to the life, rather than the health, of the mother, then abortion was permissible. Neither the girl nor her parents were in court.

The ruling was welcomed by liberal groups, but the pro-life movement was dismayed by the judgment, which it regarded as compromising the principle that the unborn child should be protected in all circumstances. The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children said it would not comment until it had studied the judgment, but it added that the decision appeared to legalise abortion in Ireland. The Roman Catholic church, which did not com-

ment yesterday, is expected to discuss the ruling at a meeting of bishops in Maynooth, Co Kildare, next week.

The key to the ruling was the court's interpretation of the mother's right to life, which is also enshrined in the constitutional amendment. The clause says: "The state acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and, with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother, guarantees in its laws to respect, and, as far as practicable, by its laws to defend and vindicate that right."

Mr Justice Finlay said the clause must be interpreted with "prudence, justice and clarity". Quoting evidence before the High Court, which imposed the injunction, that the girl had expressed a desire to kill herself on a number of occasions, he argued that there was a substantial risk to her life and it could only be safeguarded by allowing a termination. "It is common sense that the threat of self-destruction such as that outlined in this case cannot be monitored," he told the court.

By interpreting the clause in this way, Mr Justice Finlay has overturned the view of Mr Justice Declan Costello, the High Court judge. He said the risk that the teenager might take her own life was "much less and of a different order of magnitude than the certainty that the life of the unborn will be terminated" if an abortion was allowed.

A second Supreme Court judge criticised successive governments for failing to legislate guidelines more than eight years after the constitution had been amended, since the clause was "bare of legislative direction". Mr Justice Niall McCarthy said this was not just unfortunate but inexcusable.

Only one judge, Mr Justice Anthony Hederman, dissented. He argued that there was a "remarkable paucity" of evidence that the girl might take her own life. He said that the evidence there was did not justify withdrawing from the focus the protection it had been guaranteed by the High Court injunction.

"The state must, in principle, act in accordance with the mother's duty to carry out the pregnancy and, in principle, must also outlaw termination of pregnancy."



The wizard of Oz Ian Botham celebrating one of his four wickets in England's World Cup triumph against Australia in Sydney yesterday

To Keating from Botham, with love

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN SYDNEY

PAUL Keating, Australia's embattled prime minister, has spent the past week urging his countrymen to shake the English influence out of their hair. He had reckoned without Ian Botham.

Yesterday at the Sydney Cricket Ground, in the biggest match so far of the cricket World Cup, Botham took four wickets in seven balls and then scored a rumbustious 53 as England won by eight wickets. "I think the Queen was watching on TV,"

he smirked to an Australian interviewer later.

Ever since he first burst on to the Test scene, against Greg Chappell's 1977 Australians, Botham has made it his business to antagonise England's oldest cricketing foe.

The defeat was Australia's third in four World Cup games. But for their one-run win against India, they would even now be virtually eliminated from a competition which they began as

favourites. "They are down," said Botham with unmistakable relish, before adding with a hint of regret, "but they are not out just yet."

Almost 40,000 people squeezed into the atmospheric ground last night; most of them were filling out again long before Robin Smith hit the winning run. Allan Border, Australia's captain, is a

Viv Richards, page 30
England's victory, page 32

Labour and Tories level

The Conservatives and Labour were exactly neck and neck at 38.5 per cent each in the latest opinion poll carried out by Gallup for the *Daily Telegraph*.

The Liberal Democrats were on 18.5 per cent; if repeated in a general election, the result would be a hung parliament.

£4 bn giveaway, page 7
Leading article, page 13

NHS claim

The government said that a record fall of 30 per cent in a month in the number of patients waiting more than two years for operations proved that health service reforms were a success.

Page 2

Guards shot

Two security guards were wounded and a police car was hijacked at gunpoint in a city-centre chase in Southampton.

Page 2

Sea collision

Three men were rescued from a North Sea trawler after its bow had been sliced off in a collision with a merchant ship.

Page 3

Kerrey quits

Senator Bob Kerrey of Nebraska became the first casualty of the American presidential primary race when he announced he was quitting.

Page 10

Births, marriages, deaths	14
Crossword	16
Letters	13
Obituaries	15
Parliament	6-7
Sport	28-32
Weather	16
Arts	2-3
Concise Crossword	9
Health	5
Law Report	8
Mounting	7
TV & radio	10



How 'Hello' won the first of the phoney wars

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN NEW YORK

FOR all those worried about the etiquette of answering cell phones in bars or the correct greeting for voice mail, a New York professor has come up with an intriguing historical nugget. If Thomas Edison's idea had not beaten Alexander Bell's, we could all be answering the phone with a cheery "Aho!"

After burrowing for five years in the archives of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T), Allen Koenigsberg, a classicist at Brooklyn College, has solved what the experts call the "hello puzzle" by finding proof that Edison coined the greeting to start a telephone call.

In a letter in August 1877, a year after Bell patented his invention and six months before the first public exchange opened in Connecticut, Edison told a friend that a hearty "Hello" seemed the

best way of attracting someone's attention and also for answering. He apparently adapted the word from the older hunting call "Hullo" and the British "Halloo", that expression of surprise favoured until recently by London policemen. When he invented the phonograph in July 1877, Edison yelled the hunting "Hullo" into the microphone. Mr Koenigsberg said. Neither "Hullo" nor "Hullo" was used as a greeting, as the Oxford dictionary points out.

Bell had been insisting that any chat on his instrument should be opened with an "Aho!", a low-technology utterance he would have learnt in his Scottish childhood.

When the New Haven exchange opened, the snappy "Hello" prevailed over both "Aho!" and the official "What is wanted?" recommended by the Connecticut operator's manual. "If you think about it," said Mr Koenigsberg, who published his finding in the *Antique Phonograph Monthly*, "Why didn't Stanley say hello to Livingstone? The word didn't exist." The American "Hello" proved a social liberator. The phone overnight cut right through the 19th-century etiquette that you don't speak to anyone unless you've been introduced." Mr Koenigsberg told *The New York Times*.

By the mid-1890s, telephone operators in America and London were known as "hello girls", as the OED records, but the discovery of the letter will force a revision in the dictionary which now dates the first reported "Hello" to 1883. Mr Koenigsberg even unearthed a telephonic "hello" in a Mark Twain sketch of 1880.

Mr Koenigsberg's report comes as AT&T this week said it would phase out human operators and replace them with computers which recognise instructions from the human voice, including, one supposes, "Hello".

Did Edison or Bell invent the wrong number?

VENTURE A LITTLE HIGHER



THE FAMOUS GROUSE
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY
QUALITY IN AN AGE OF CHANGE

Cuts in waiting lists hit other patients, specialists claim

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A RECORD fall of 30 per cent in a month in the number of patients waiting more than two years for operations proved the success of health service reforms, William Waldegrave, the health secretary said yesterday. But Labour produced nine distinguished specialists who said that the reforms were misconceived and unsatisfactory.

Mr Waldegrave released figures showing that hospitals, which have been holding special clinics at evenings and weekends, had cleared almost 9,000 patients from the two-year list in January alone, leaving just over 20,000 to be treated by his self-imposed deadline of the end of this month. "At that rate I think we will achieve our target."

However, he later admitted that the number waiting less than one year had risen by

an extra 3,270 patients in January (0.4 per cent), although the overall waiting list trend was still downward.

Labour's specialists — notably more eminent than those who have spoken for the government — criticised his aim of clearing the two-year lists by the end of next month for diverting resources from needier patients. "It means you are shifting the waiting list by reducing the list for cold [routine] surgery but increasing it in casualty," Professor John Moxham, consultant in thoracic medicine at King's College Hospital, south-east London, said.

Sir Douglas Black, former president of the Royal College of Physicians, described the idea of the internal market as misconceived. Sir Christopher Booth, past president of the British Medical Association, said there was evidence of creeping privatisation. Professor Robert Winston, an infertility specialist at Hammersmith Hospital, west London, said doctors had to be concerned with cost "but they are having to make it a *sine qua non* of treating patients."

Earlier, Mr Waldegrave told the Institute of Health Services Management that the NHS was on course to treat 5.6 per cent more acute in-patients this year, 7.9 million in all, on the basis of figures for the first nine months of the reforms. But Robin Cook, for Labour, disputed this figure too. Returns from regional health authorities showed a 10 per cent fall in patients treated in the last three months of last year, he said, implying a year-end total of 7.45 million.

The real figures reveal that William Waldegrave has inflated his forecast by half a million patients who are not really there," he said.

Mr Waldegrave also announced a big expansion of the GP fundholding scheme with 280 practices joining the

existing 300 from next month and a further 600 expected in April next year. By then, one in four people would be registered with a GP fundholder, he said.

In an uncharacteristic attack on Labour's record, a measure of the rising political temperature over the NHS, Mr Waldegrave claimed that the last Labour government had cut capital spending on the NHS by 30 per cent. The Conservative government had increased it by 76 per cent since 1979, he said.

But he again fell foul of Labour's specialists when he claimed that spending on the NHS since 1979 as a proportion of gross domestic product had risen faster than the European Community average.

"It is true that the amount of resources has increased but we are still right at the bottom of the European table for spending as a percentage of GDP, with the exception of Greece," Professor Philip Steer, head of the department of obstetrics at Charing Cross Hospital, said.

Mr Cook had been scheduled to appear on the same conference platform as Mr Waldegrave but his place was taken at the last minute by health spokesman Harriet Harman. Furious delegates called Mr Cook's failure to turn up "a disgrace". Mr Cook said his absence was because he was chairing the Westminster news conference to "enable those who work in the health service to comment on the claims that are being made on their behalf by ministers". He added that Mr Waldegrave decided to attend when he found out Mr Cook would not be up against him.

□ Peter Griffiths, chief executive of Guy's and Lewisham trust, told MPs that he was setting up an independent enquiry into allegations that four cardiac patients had died because there was not enough money to treat them at Guy's.



Gunman's victim: David Loveridge, one of two security guards shot yesterday, being taken to hospital

Cash raiders shoot security guards

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

AN ARMED robber was being hunted last night after two security guards were wounded and a police car was hijacked at gunpoint in a city centre chase. Police cordoned off a residential area of Southampton during the search for the man, aged about 30 and described as dangerous.

Detecives began questioning another man held after the hijacked police car was halted by unarmed police who rammed it and forced it to stop.

The two guards, named as

Peter Tatum, aged 35, and David Loveridge, aged 44, both from the Southampton area, received emergency treatment in hospital. Mr Tatum was shot once and Mr Loveridge two or three times. They are not thought to be critically injured.

The guards were attacked as they were delivering cash to a bank in Southampton High Street, Derek Watts, a business consultant who saw the attack, said he heard shouting and saw the guards struggling with one of the men. "Suddenly, another

robber with a hand gun stepped back and shouted 'Give us the money'. He then shot one of the guards at least three times," Mr Watts said. "It was a barbaric act and completely in cold blood. The guy didn't even have the bag."

As the guards lay bleeding, the raiders fled on a high-powered motor-cycle clutching bags of cash. After dumping the vehicle half a mile away at the Centre 2000 swimming pool, they drove off in a white Astra car. Police Sergeant David

Sawle spotted the stolen Astra, gave chase in his patrol car and cornered the Astra. As he attempted to contact other officers, one of the robbers tore his radio microphone from his uniform.

Another policeman, PC Clive Brook, tried to arrest them but they escaped in his patrol car after threatening him with a pistol.

Within minutes, the robbery car was halted after police jammed their vehicle next to the driver's door, trapping the driver. The second man disappeared.

Car bomb injures five police

A car bomb containing up to 1,000lb of explosives injured five policemen and two women and devastated a town centre yesterday.

The bomb was driven into Lurgan, Co Armagh, in a pick-up truck. A second high-jacked vehicle carried other members of the gang, police said yesterday. They appealed for information about a gold Vauxhall Cavalier car believed to have been used by the bombers.

A warning had been issued and the area was being cleared when the bomb exploded. The injured officers were guarding a security cordon; three were detained in hospital with leg injuries. Workmen have begun repairing shattered houses in the immediate area of the blast in Market Street.

Another car bomb seriously damaged government buildings in Belfast early yesterday, when the offices of the housing executive were particularly badly hit.

A British soldier was injured yesterday afternoon in a bomb explosion on the Tyrone-Monaghan border. The soldier was caught in the blast at a point known as Saviour Royal in South Tyrone. The RUC said the condition was not serious but he had been detained in hospital.

Doctors given job-share plan

The heads of Britain's medical schools have drawn up a radical plan to ease the plight of overworked junior doctors. It involves the sharing of each junior post by two doctors, cutting their workload and improving supervision.

Medical students now spend five years in training before qualifying, followed by a year on the wards before admission as fully fledged doctors. Under the plan, they would qualify six months or a year earlier and spend two pre-registration years on the wards.

Listen to youth, princess says

Young people are so exposed to crime that many see it as normal behaviour and a way of settling differences and getting what they want, the Princess Royal said yesterday. The Princess told a meeting of Crime Concern in London that that attitude needed to be changed and urged society to listen to the views of young people. She said young people learnt more about values from the way they were treated than from a lecture. She said surveys showed that children and teenagers had a "shockingly high" level of contact with crime.

Police tribunal

A special tribunal will sit next month at Scotland Yard to assess the case of Wym Jones, the assistant commissioner suspended in 1990 after allegations of impropriety. The tribunal, expected to sit in private, will be held by a QC working with a lay adviser on police matters. His report will be sent to Sir Peter Imbert, the commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, and the home secretary.

Dealer jailed

A "crack" dealer was jailed for 17 years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday after the attempted murder of a detective, who was shot through the heart in a drugs raid. Judge Richardson, QC, said Det Constable Paul Hughes, aged 28, had survived only by a "miracle". Sammy Lewis, aged 22, of Kilburn, north-west London, was lured into a police ambush in March last year.

They also serve

The government is proposing to create an "ever ready" force of former service personnel and civilians who would be liable to early call up in the event of another war. The plan is to encourage people with specialist expertise to back up the regulars. Tom King, the defence secretary, published an open government document yesterday calling on employers to give their views on the proposal.

Leaking of opinion poll in marginals

Tory HQ points finger of guilt at unnamed reporter

AN UNIDENTIFIED journalist was fingered by Conservative Central Office last night as the source of a leak which caused the results of an opinion poll of marginal seats to be emblazoned across yesterday's papers.

Suspicion had wrongly centred on Michael Portillo, the local government minister, who learned on Tuesday of the results of a poll of 50 marginal seats giving Labour a dramatic 5 point lead.

The NOP poll for the *Local Government Chronicle* and the BBC's *Public Eye* programme was shown to Mr Portillo on Tuesday at his request by John Andrew, a reporter on the programme, when he was being interviewed about his findings.

Bryan Gould, his Labour shadow who was also questioned, was given the same information. Mr Portillo reacted furiously last night when accused by Mr Gould of leaking the poll. It was a breach of faith, Mr Portillo said. "Mr Portillo and I were interviewed on the strict understanding that the poll findings were confidential until broadcast."

Mr Portillo accused Mr Gould of a "libellous attack." He had not leaked the poll. "I understand that details of the poll were supplied to Conservative Central Office by a journalist and that central office passed the details to other journalists."

A senior minister leaked the details of the poll to journalists on Wednesday. Mr Portillo said last night that he had told a central office colleague of the results of the poll but had been assured confidentiality had not been broken. Mr Portillo knew nothing of the briefing to journalists on Wednesday. He admitted he was taken back to see yesterday that it had leaked. He said he had been assured by central office that his information had not been the basis of the briefing given by the senior minister to journalists.

However it reached them, Tory strategists realised that a poll suggesting a 7½ point swing to Labour in the seats vital to the outcome of the election might have had a disastrous effect on morale. What was worse, they did not believe it.

A decision was taken to

Philip Webster disentangles the web of claim and counter claim to find the truth of the disclosure

denial until broadcast. Mr Portillo accused Mr Gould of a "libellous attack." He had not leaked the poll. "I understand that details of the poll were supplied to Conservative Central Office by a journalist and that central office passed the details to other journalists."

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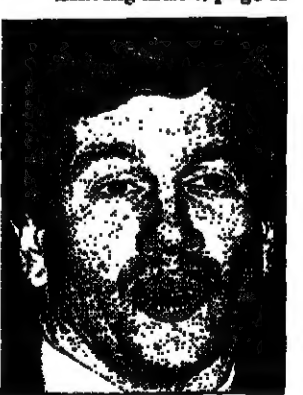
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A decision was taken to

brief the press in advance to discredit the poll and to take the steam out of it. A Conservative press conference on Wednesday provided the ideal opportunity. A senior minister briefed untrustworthy half a dozen political reporters about a survey whose findings he described as "bizarre".

It is not clear if the Tory strategists expected the reporters to write up the poll results, as most did. The Tories were on thin ground in attacking the poll's methodology. NOP's rivals were quick to come to its aid, even those who work privately for the Conservative party. The methods that were used were standard practice, press enquirers were told.

Pol tax rebels, page 1
Peter Riddell, page 12
Leading article, page 13



Portillo: furious at being accused of leak

Parties polls apart in the formula for winning votes

Different methods of conducting surveys can be a big influence on their results, writes David Lipsey

Robert Waller, of Harris, said.

The definitive objective study of the question is *Nine Hypotheses about quota sampling* by two academics, Catherine Marsh and Elinor Scarborough, published by the Market Research Society last year. It shows that there are "large differences" between samples using the two methods.

However, some psephologists have yet to be persuaded that random sampling proves better in practice. They point out that the method depends on how successful pollsters are in contacting everyone selected from the register. Harris achieves an imperfect 70 per cent. "There is nothing that confirms that quota samples correct bias," Professor Ivor Crewe, of Essex University, said.

Most psephologists are not convinced, either, of the superiority of marginal over national polls. In theory, it is better to poll only in the seats that could change hands. Labour could be ahead nationally because it is piling up votes in its safe seats. But under Britain's single member constituency electoral system, that would not win it any extra seats.

In practice, marginal polling has a mixed record. In the 1987 election, marginal polls by Mori for *The Times* predicted the Tory landslide. But one marginal poll before polling day suggested that Labour was doing much better in marginal seats. When real votes were counted, that marginal effect did not materialise. "There is no reason why marginal polls should be worse," Professor Crewe said. "But in fact they have been worse."

Leading article, page 13

Cheeses avoid the traps of EC law

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

THE Prince of Wales need not worry about the future of French farmhouse cheeses for they are not in danger, the EC commissioner in charge of food hygiene in the single market said yesterday.

Martin Bangemann, German commissioner and noted Brussels trencherman, wrote yesterday to the prince who recently supported a campaign by the makers of French local cheeses against new regulations being prepared by the EC.

The prince's Paris speech has attracted widespread attention in France where objections to over-regulation by Brussels have increased dramatically. Herr Bangemann said that in framing new rules the Commission was trying to balance the "need to maintain free informed choice with the imperatives

of consumer safety". He said that no one in Brussels wanted to confine Europe's culinary riches in a straitjacket of law.

Herr Bangemann pointed out that the first proposals for a change in rules governing cheese labels came from Britain after scares about germs lurking in tasty cheeses. The British ideas were rejected as likely to spell the end of many "delicious" cheeses.

To avoid having the Continent's farmhouse cheeses labelled "bacteriological" police, Herr Bangemann says that he has drawn up flexible codes and procedures for checking food safety which can be adjusted to different foods and different sizes of firms.

"In this way," he wrote to the prince, "the traditional knowledge and skills will be drawn on to a maximum and the farmhouse cooks you refer to will not be subjected to the methods appropri-

ate to a large industrial concern." Mr Bangemann quotes — but misspells — Laurence Sterne writing that "they order... this matter better in France". This is right for cheese, the commissioner said, and it would be "a sad day for all if this glorious French heritage were to be pasteurised and homogenised out of existence."

Britain's most famous cheese shop has been saved, by one of its assistants. The Wells Stores, for 35 years the headquarters of Patrick Rance who spearheaded a campaign to promote and protect real farmhouse cheese, went into receivership last month after Mr Rance's son, Hugh, had the business moved from Stratford, Berkshire, to larger premises in Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

Gill Draycott, who has worked in the store for the past 18 months, mortgaged her home to buy the business.

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BURDA MARCH ISSUE LAUNCHES NEW SUPERPATTERN

If you're interested in fashion design you must see the March issue of Burda magazine. Burda have been supplying the latest in international fashion for over 40 years and have now developed a new SUPERPATTERN sheet to make 'making-it-yourself' even easier. AND THERE'S MORE! Each issue contains a new pattern and a new SUPERPATTERN which can be used at a glance and saved for future use. Each pattern is in an A4 size and each SUPERPATTERN is in an A3 size. The March issue contains a new pattern and a new SUPERPATTERN.

ON SALE AT JUST £2.20 FROM W.A. SMITH, JOHN HENNESSY AND ALL GOOD NEWSAGENTS FROM THE BEGINNING OF MARCH

Baby-sit girl, aged 11, killed child who cried

BY PETER DAVENPORT

A GIRL aged 11 who lost her temper when she was baby-sitting and attacked an 18-month-old boy because he would not stop crying was found guilty of his manslaughter yesterday.

She battered Sean Graham against the bars of his cot and suffocated him by nipping his nose with her fingers and clamping her hand across his mouth. When the boy's mother returned home the baby-sitter told her that the evening had gone "fine" and left the house.

The girl, who is now aged 12, cried when the jury of eight men and four women found her guilty of manslaughter after a nine-day trial at Newcastle upon Tyne crown court. She was cleared of murder.

The girl, who cannot be named for legal reasons, is believed to be the youngest female to be convicted in a British court of killing since Mary Bell 24 years ago: a boy aged 11 was found guilty of manslaughter in Lancashire in 1990.

Bell, aged 11, was convicted of the manslaughter of two boys, aged four and three, by smothering them, and was

ordered to be detained for life when she appeared at Newcastle. She has since been released.

The judge in yesterday's case postponed sentence for medical and probation reports on the girl.

During the trial the court was told that the girl became irritated by Sean's persistent crying and ran upstairs to attack him in his cot. She had been paid £3.50 to look after him and his sister, Kirsty, aged four, in Blyth, Northumberland, while their mother, Karen Graham, aged 23, went out.

The jury was told that Sean received 25 injuries when his head was banged against the cot bars and his neck squeezed before his air supply was cut off. When Mrs Graham, who is separated from her husband, returned home from a night out with her boy friend, the baby-sitter told her the evening had "gone fine". Some time later Mrs Graham, a former nursery nurse, went upstairs to check on her children and found her son dead in his cot.

After the verdict yesterday Mrs Graham said: "I just want this nightmare to end. I hope she gets the help she really needs because there is something sadly the matter with her. I have had to be strong for Kirsty's sake."

The baby-sitter claimed that she had not harmed Sean while she was in the house. She said that bloodstains on her jeans and socks, which matched the boy's blood group, had come from a cousin who had been visiting the house that evening when Sean dropped his feeding bottle and cut his lip. The prosecution said that she had attacked Sean in a temper when his cries disturbed a card game.

The girl is expected to stay at the Aycliffe Centre for Children in Co Durham, which houses some of the country's most dangerous and disturbed youngsters, until sentence.

French named as biggest cheats

BY RAY CLANCY

THE French are Europe's least trustworthy citizens and are more likely to buy stolen goods, claim state benefits to which they are not entitled and drive off after hitting a parked car, according to a survey published yesterday.

The British are litter-lovers, the Belgians tax cheats, the Italians economical with the truth, the Dutch joyriders and the Germans most likely to be drunk drivers.

Only Denmark emerges as having a righteous population in the survey by the European Value Systems Study Group, a network of academics who questioned 19,000 people in 13 countries. Danes are least likely to accept bribes, buy stolen goods, drop litter or drink and drive.

The Norwegians are moralistic when it comes to claiming state benefits, with 95 per cent saying that it was never or rarely justified. The Swedes adopt a stern line on drinking and driving, 99 per cent objecting strongly.

The people of Northern Ireland emerged as more moral than their counterparts in the rest of the United Kingdom. The northern Irish were the least likely to avoid tax, take part in joyriding or keep money found in the street.

The Portuguese are the biggest fare dodgers and the most likely to keep money found in the street. Spaniards also show a high level of fare avoidance, joyriding and keeping lost money.

Suggestions why the French had an image of cheating was that many were fed up with the system and showed a waning interest in the church, and that civic education had been removed from the school curriculum.

Checks could cut bowel cancer risk

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

SCREENING everyone for signs of bowel cancer could save thousands of lives, researchers from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund said yesterday.

An examination at the age of 55 would identify those at higher risk of cancer, who would undergo regular checks and have pre-cancerous growths removed. Dr Jack Cusick, of the fund, said yesterday that such a screening programme could reduce by 80 per cent the 6,000 deaths every year in Britain from cancer of the rectum.

In today's issue of *The New England Journal of Medicine*, the fund's Dr Wendy Atkin and Dr Cusick, and Dr Basil Morson, of St Mark's hospital, London, describe a study of 1,618 patients referred to St Mark's with common bowel problems, and who had at least one pre-cancerous growth. They followed the patients' progress for an average of 14 years.

The study found that about

half those with a growth were at no greater risk than the rest of the population. Only about 5 per cent needed repeated examinations.

A second study in the same journal, by an American group led by Dr Joe Selby, of the Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program in Oakland, California, showed that patients who had been screened within the past ten years had a 60 to 70 per cent reduction in the risk of death from rectal or colon cancer.

□ Dietary changes and cholesterol lowering drugs can reverse the narrowing of arteries in patients with coronary heart disease, a seven-year study at St Thomas's hospital, London, has shown.

In a trial of 90 men, 38 per cent of those on cholesterol lowering treatments showed a widening of their arteries, against only 4 per cent of those receiving normal care.

Health, L&T section page 5

Law lords reject plea over deaths

BY FRANCIS GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE House of Lords yesterday refused to allow a test damages claim against the police for the suffering of two sisters who died in the Hillsborough disaster. The girls' parents called the decision "the final insult".

Trevor and Jennifer Hicks lost their daughters Victoria, aged 19, and Sarah, aged 15, in the 1989 tragedy in which 95 people died and 400 were injured.

The couple, who are divorced but united in their legal battle on behalf of their daughters' estates, had sought damages for pre-death pain and suffering to "mark public disapproval" of South Yorkshire police over their handling of the overcrowding at the Sheffield Wednesday ground.

Five law lords unanimously dismissed their test case appeal, which affects a number of similar claims.

Crew saved after ship bow is severed

BY BILL FROST

THREE men rescued from a trawler early yesterday after the vessel's bow was sliced off by a merchant ship in the North Sea were lucky to have survived, coastguards said.

The crew of the Grimsby-registered Suromaa broadcast a Mayday message about 1am saying that the trawler had been struck by a cargo boat, 30 miles north-east of Whitby. The trawler's bow had been sliced off, the hull was taking in water and her skipper feared she would sink.

A transport department spokesman said that the merchantman had been identified by another fishing boat in the area. Investigators believe they know the name of the vessel, which had a foreign registration and was expected to dock in Britain yesterday, he said.

An RAF helicopter from Leconfield airfield the three crew from the trawler and flew them to Whitby. A coast-guard spokesman said that the men, all from Hartlepool, were shaken and had been cut and bruised.

Alan Greenwood, aged 29, the skipper of the Suromaa, was on watch in the wheelhouse at the time of the accident. His brother, Darren, aged 25, and Malcolm Greston, aged 21, were asleep below.

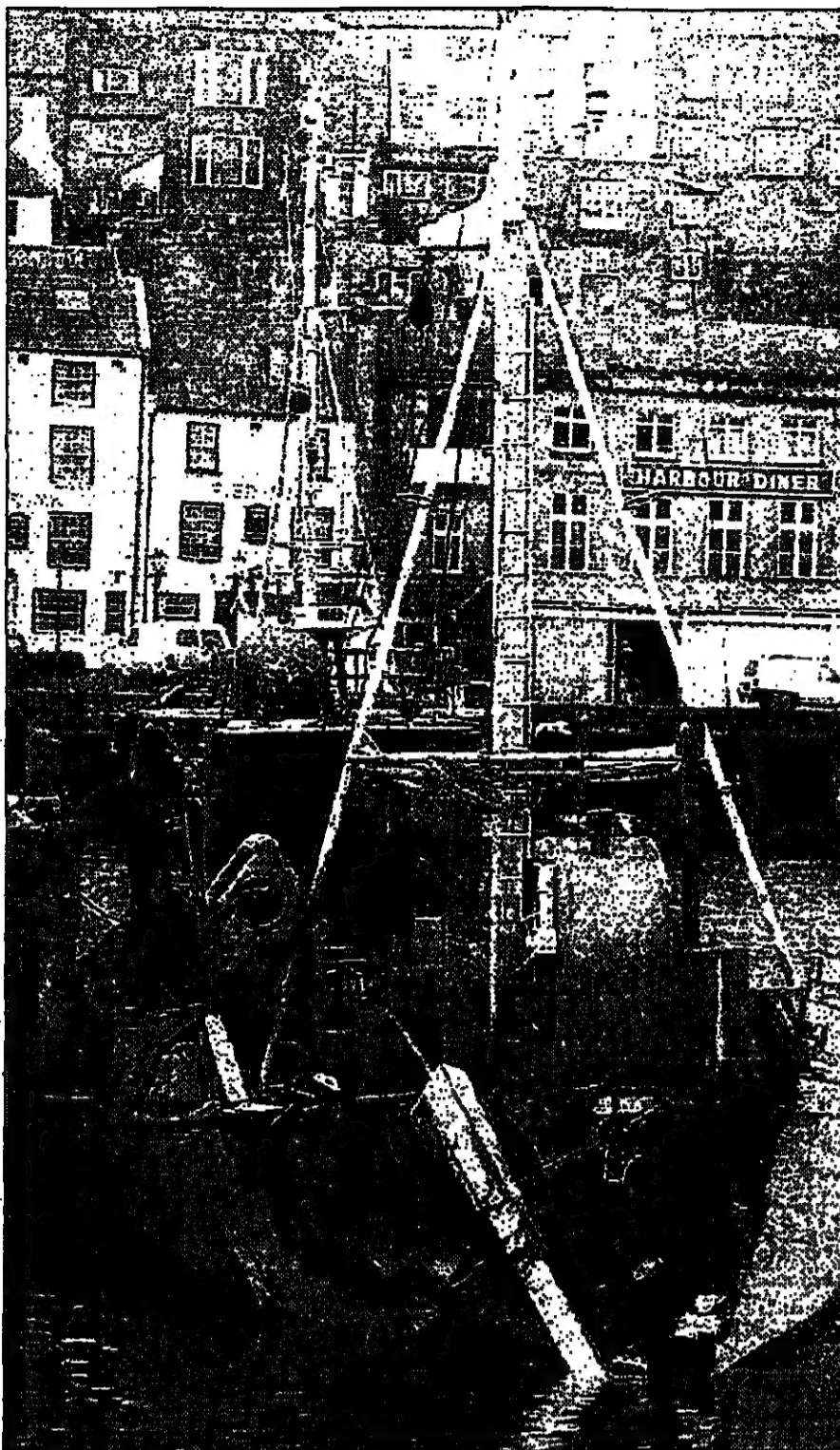
Mr Greston said that he was woken by a loud bang. "When we got on deck we saw the front of the boat had been hit, and it was taking in water. I could see the outline of a ship as it sailed on."

After the air rescue, the Whitby lifeboat towed the drifting trawler back to port. Steve Smith, of Caley Fisheries, owners of the trawler, said: "The lads have been very shocked and distressed by the incident. But they are alive. It all happened very quickly and it is a mystery where the other boat got to."

Mr Greston criticised the captain and crew of the other vessel. "They should have stopped. They must have known they hit something."

Marine accident investigators from the transport department yesterday launched an enquiry into the collision, which took place outside UK territorial waters. They will examine the merchant vessel suspected of being involved in the accident after she has docked and will interview the trawler's crew.

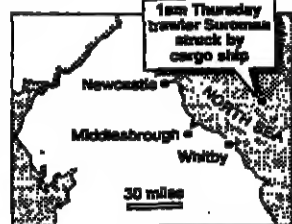
Coastguards said that the



Ship wrecked: the remains of the Suromaa fishing trawler tied up in Whitby yesterday after its bow was ripped off in a collision with a cargo vessel

weather was calm with good visibility when the collision occurred. Arnold Harper, a Whitby lifeboatman who examined the Suromaa after she had been towed into port, said: "Judging by the damage caused, the other vessel must have been moving fast and lives were put at risk."

"This was an accident waiting to happen. Unfortunately, many vessel owners are involved in minor scrapes and just sail off. But this is far more serious," he added.



Tough line urged on office sex pests

BY ALISON ROBERTS AND RICHARD FORD

EMPLOYERS were urged to take tougher action against sexual harassment yesterday. An employment department leaflet dealing with bottom-punching, innuendo and intimidation will be sent to 100,000 companies.

The leaflet says that sexual harassment "can seriously affect the confidence of your employees and consequently how well they do their jobs."

Guidelines are laid down for employers consistent with the European Commission's recommended code of practice. Sexual harassment is defined as "unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, or other conduct based on sex affecting the dignity of women and men at work". It recommends drawing up a company policy and explains the procedures to be followed after a complaint.

The guidelines come after a survey earlier this year which said victims were more likely than their persecutors to be forced to switch jobs.

Many large firms have a working code already in place. The Post Office equal opportunities manager, Ken Best, is in charge of the group's policy. He said: "It was introduced in 1989 and we have seen more cases since then, probably because it is easier for women to come forward. It has put sexual harassment on managers' agendas and forces people to take it seriously."

Brenda Wilkinson, women's officer for Brighton borough council, introduced its code in 1990. She said: "We concentrated on creating a network of sympathetic women, and it was women that came to us rather than men, so that there was always someone to go to."

In a move to improve equal opportunity in the civil service, government departments will have to set targets for the proportion of women to be appointed to different grades. Ministers want an increase in the number of women appointed to science and engineering posts in Whitehall and the semi-independent agencies and an improvement in their representation at the most senior level of the civil service.

Clamper stalked disabled driver

A zealous wheel clamper who stalked a disabled woman before fining her £45 has been dismissed.

Clampdown Security yesterday admitted that the warden waited for wheelchair-bound Gillian Matthews, aged 55, to go to the shops in the Old George Mall in Salisbury, Wiltshire, before clamping her Ford Escort.

David Dalton, a company spokesman, said that the warden hid while she parked her car. "It was very naughty. He has been dismissed. He was not suitable - he was over zealous." He said that warden's wages depended on the number of motorists they clamp. The firm would gladly refund Mrs Matthews.

Mrs Matthews, who lives near Wincanton, Somerset, said that she was allowed to park in a service area.

£11m reserve

The biggest man-made nature reserve in Britain, costing £11 million and covering 2,500 acres in Teesside, is to be inaugurated by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary in London on Monday. Habitats will be created in reedbeds, grassland, swamp, saltmarsh and woodlands. The site, formerly owned by ICI and centred on the Tees estuary, is used by wading birds and wildfowl.

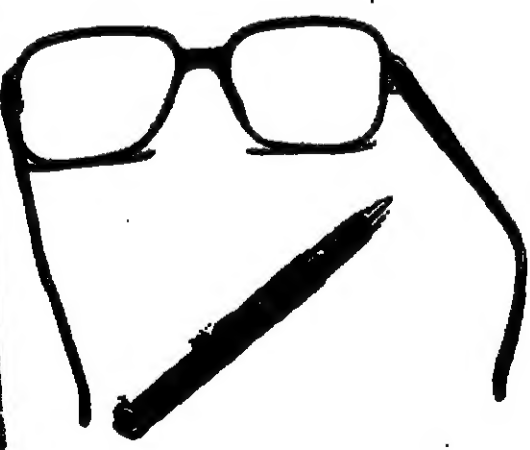
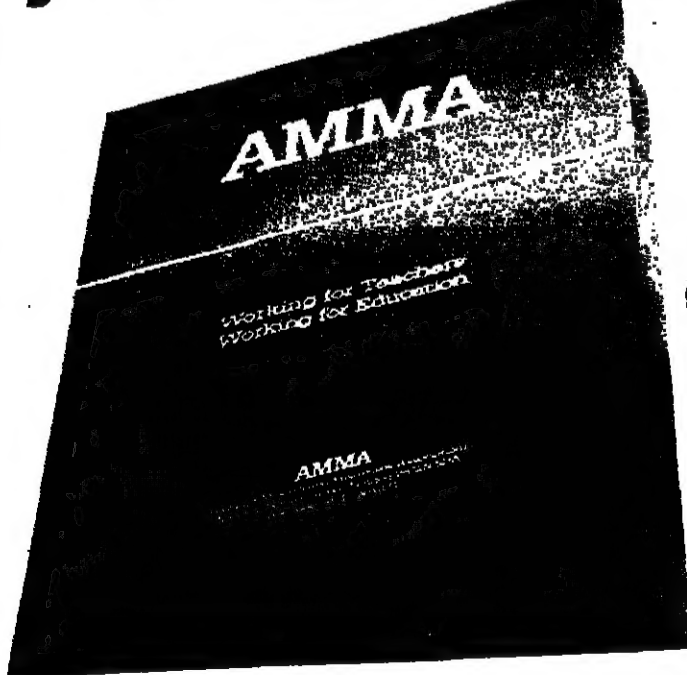
Guilty drivers

Three in five motorists are breaking motorway speed limits, according to figures published by the transport department yesterday. Hidden detectors checked five million motorway cars. Nearly one in four were driven at more than 80mph. Surveys on other roads showed that almost one in three buses and coaches exceeded the 60mph limit.

Trader jailed

A securities dealer was jailed for two and a half years yesterday for using his clients' money to try to rescue his ailing group. Andrew Taylor Kimmings, aged 33, of Putney, southwest London, who admitted two charges of fraudulent trading in relation to Blade Securities and Blade Investments, committed "serious breaches of trust", said Judge Anwyl-Davies, QC, at Southwark crown court.

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BBC rescues Noddy and Big Ears

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

NODDY and his Toyland playmates Big Ears and PC Pod have been saved for the nation's younger viewers.

The BBC has extricated the mischievous taxi-driving elf from the wreckage of the Maxwell empire and promised to give the Enid Blyton characters a new lease of life on BBC children's television this autumn. The happy ending for the 43-year-old Noddy, who has changed with the times to reject all things racist and sexist, came after liquidators of the Maxwell paperback publisher, Macdonald, yesterday concluded a six-way bidding battle for the Noddy TV, video, merchandise and book rights.

It had been feared that Noddy would end up on the scrap heap after it was disclosed that the American buyer of Macdonald was not interested in the 24 Noddy picture books. Noddy,



Saved: Noddy and Big Ears at Television Centre

known as *Oui Oui* in France, *Puzelknips* in Germany, and *Hilits* in Spain, never achieved great popularity in North America, where he was rejected as too old fashioned.

BBC Enterprises, the BBC's commercial arm that beat off competition from Penguin and Hodder and Stoughton by submitting

the highest bid for the world rights, is to market a more "right on" Noddy in the US. The BBC said: "Noddy has been out of favour because people thought he was racist and sexist but the books have been updated and we will be going with the 1990s Noddy who uses unleaded petrol in his car. He will be acceptable to current taste." Gone are all the golliwogs, which have been replaced by gremkins and monkeys. Gilbert Golly has been turned into a naughty girl named Martha Monkey. Miss Rap, the schoolmistress, has lost her spanking slipper and become Miss Prim. While PC Pod has become "less aggressive".

The 13-part animated series, using models faithful to the original Harmsen van der Beek illustrations, will also be available on video next autumn. New picture books, with illustrations based on the TV series, will be released, with Noddy toys, games, ceramics, toiletries and other merchandise.

Nick Chapman, director of BBC Enterprises consumer products group, said the BBC expected to make "many millions of pounds" from Noddy. The books have sold 100 million copies, although sales fell considerably before they were updated in 1990.

Car bomb injures five police

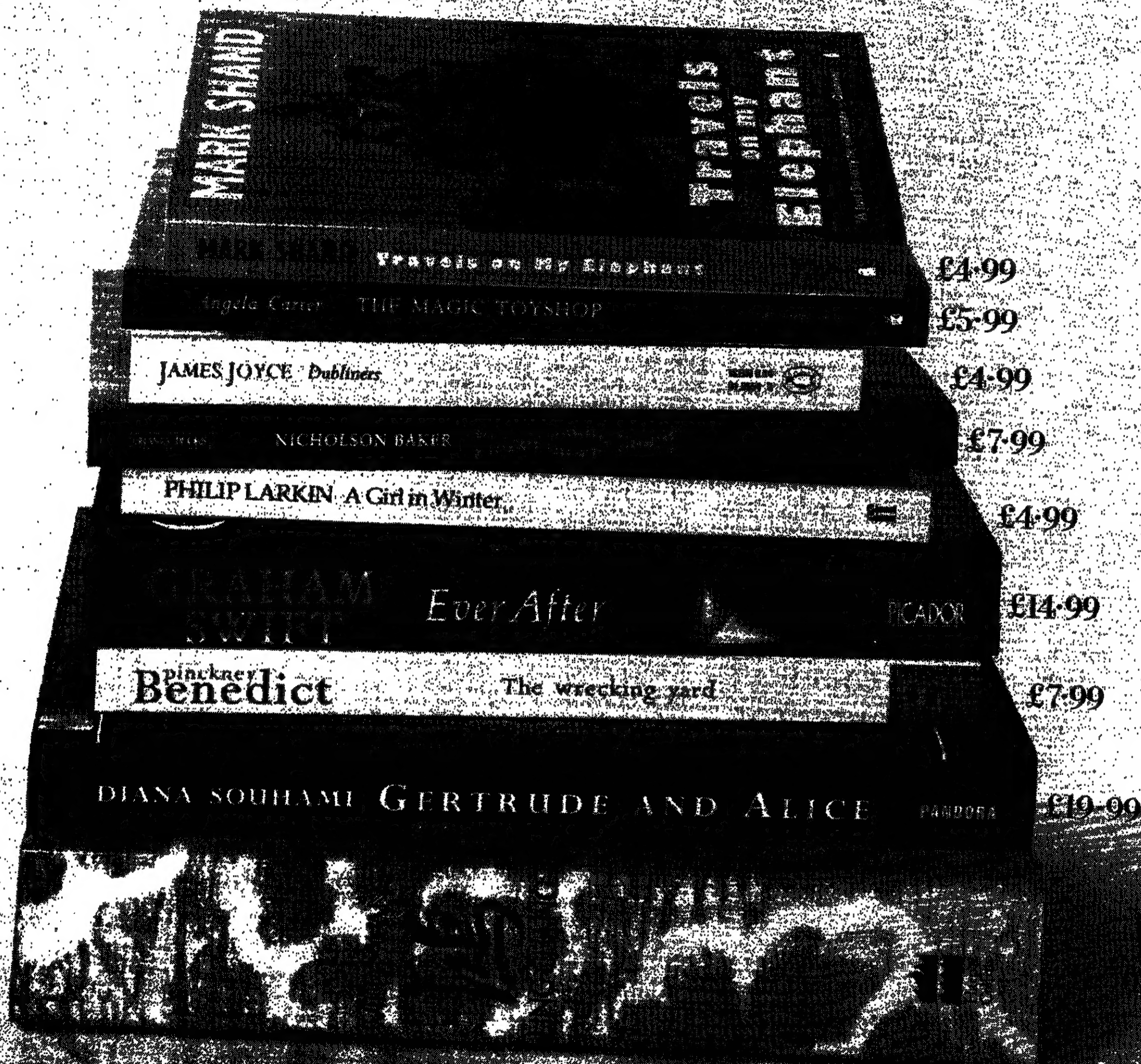
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Listen to youth princess says

Police tribunal

Dealer jailed

They also say



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Scottish education reform

New tests demanded to replace highers

By KERRY GILL

THE most radical changes to Scottish higher education in 50 years are likely after the publication of a report recommending the abolition of higher examinations.

Instead of pupils in the fifth and sixth years of secondary school taking highers, it is recommended that two new courses be established: a one-year Scottish certificate (Scottcert) and a three-year Scottish baccalaureate (Scotbac) that would effectively replace highers.

The Scottcert and Scotbac will embrace general and vocational education, prepare pupils for employment and higher education, and be offered in further education colleges as well as schools. The courses will use internal and external assessment and allow for differentiation in student performance.

The Scottcert courses will prepare pupils for employment, training and more advanced education while the Scotbac course, with a science and arts line, will prepare students for higher education in Scotland and Europe. In many cases, students will be

taught to a level well beyond the present higher and in some cases to or beyond sixth year studies.

The report by Professor John Howie and his committee, sharply criticised the present system which, while it prided itself on curricular breadth, did not reflect that in student attainment. The report said that many fifth and sixth years pupils in secondary education obtained only one or two highers and some none at all.

"Scotbac will have a broad cultural emphasis and will promote students' personal growth in a way which the current functional and examination-oriented syllabuses cannot," the report said. "Many thousands leave school without marketable qualifications. Even the more able students display less breadth of attainment than their European counterparts," the committee said.

"There are few opportunities for study in depth. The higher courses are too rushed and represent too steep an incline of difficulty when superimposed on standard grade." The report said many students were ill-prepared for higher education.

The report was welcomed by Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, who initiated it in 1990 when he was education minister. He said that comments would be invited over the rest of the year.

Schools in 50 English local authorities will share £15 million under the government's technology schools initiative. Tim Eggar, the education minister, said yesterday (John O'Leary writes). More than 60 schools will each receive up to £300,000 to buy equipment and improve facilities for technical and job-related courses. One, Beaumont School, in St Albans, will receive £500,000.

The controversial £25 million initiative was launched when the government's city technology college scheme began to falter. Ministers hope that the successful applicants will name themselves "technology schools" and offer a distinctive brand of education, although Beaumont intends to retain its name and generalist character.

Tories let inspectors clause die

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT whips have told Labour that ministers will accept this week's two defeats in the Lords on school inspections to ensure that the parent's charter becomes law before the election.

The agreement provides further indication that the election will be on April 9. The bill's third reading has been set for next Thursday to rush the legislation on to the statute book.

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, would not confirm the decision last night, but Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, described it as a devastating humiliation for Mr Clarke.

Under the amended regulations, schools will have to be inspected every four years by teams including parents and lay members, but the head of Her Majesty's Inspectors, rather than school governors, will be responsible for appointments. Local authority inspectors will retain their right of access to schools.

Although Labour and the Liberal Democrats remain opposed to some aspects of the inspection plans, their main aim has been to stop schools hiring their own inspectors. The government's priority has been to see the survival of the bill's provision for league tables of schools.

MPs halt report on students

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA
EDUCATION REPORTER

THE Commons education select committee decided yesterday not to publish a report on student hardship, having failed to agree on a set of recommendations before the general election.

The committee was divided over the extent and causes of students' financial difficulties. The Conservative majority remained unconvinced that hardship was widespread, focusing instead upon the administration of existing hardship funds. Labour members said the committee's decision was aimed at avoiding electoral embarrassment.

Malcolm Thornton, Conservative MP for Crosby and committee chairman, said that it would publish the evidence it had heard but felt unable to produce a detailed report because it had not heard enough evidence to reach firm conclusions.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals will now consult universities and make recommendations to the new government.

University College, Swansea, is seeking an injunction to remove 80 students who had locked themselves into an administration building in protest at over-crowding, poor supply of library books and under-funding.

Architect lays foundations of greener, cleaner capital

By MARCUS BINNEY
ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

A VISION of a regenerated London, including a new university and extended squares and parks, was unveiled by the architect Sir Richard Rogers and the Labour party yesterday.

Heading the list is a proposal to revive the Thames as an artery of the capital. "There can be no new London without a re-awakened river," Mark Fisher, shadow arts minister, said.

The schemes include: □ County Hall, now empty, to become the first university to be created from scratch since Stirling in 1967.

□ Hyde Park Corner to be landscaped, possibly with the addition of pavilions and fountains, to give it shape and coherence.

□ Trafalgar Square substantially closed to traffic with a plaza in front of the National Gallery.

□ The traffic-logged area south of Vauxhall bridge transformed into a public attraction to rival the 18th century Vauxhall Gardens.

□ Kensington Gore sunk in an underpass to create a square between the Albert Hall and the Albert Memorial, connecting with a walk to the Natural History Museum.



Sir Richard: "A city is defined by its buildings"

□ Banksia power station, on the Thames opposite St Paul's, as London's new architecture centre.

□ Battersea power station to be given an "exciting new use".

□ The Lyceum theatre, Covent Garden, to be renovated.

□ Santiago Calatrava's rejected single-arched bridge for the Thames east London crossing adopted in place of the transport department's proposals.

As to who will pay, Mr

Fisher has no qualms. "Every one of us will have to contribute. These initiatives will depend on whether the people of London, and of Britain, want a modern capital badly enough to pay for it. It is clear that the cheap option of doing nothing will mean the competitive death of London almost certainly within a generation."

Paris is held up as an example to London in investment in efficient public transport, in the constant use of architectural competitions and in lavish spending on grand projects. Sir Richard says: "A city is defined by its public buildings: if these are good then it can withstand a great deal of banal developer's architecture."

Repeated calls are made for the re-creation of a single London-wide authority. Sir Richard says that the capital needs a co-ordinated interventionist policy.

Mr Fisher denigrates the listing system, suggesting that the Grade Two buildings which collectively give London so much of its character are expendable. "In some respects we have conserved our heritage too well," he says.

New London, by Richard Rogers and Mark Fisher (Penguin Books, £8.99).

Ferry survey lists the tops and tubs

By DAVID YOUNG

PASSENGERS booking Channel ferries should check which ship is scheduled for the crossing as there are vast differences in quality, a *Holiday Which?* survey says today.

The survey team inspected nearly 50 ships making crossings to France, Ireland, Belgium and the Netherlands and found that picking the right one was still a lottery.

Passengers travelling on the Olau Hollandia and Olau Britannia, part of the North Sea Ferries fleet sailing between Sheerness and Flushing, enjoyed good passenger comfort. The Princess Marie-Christine, promoted in the UK by P&O and making Dover-Ostend

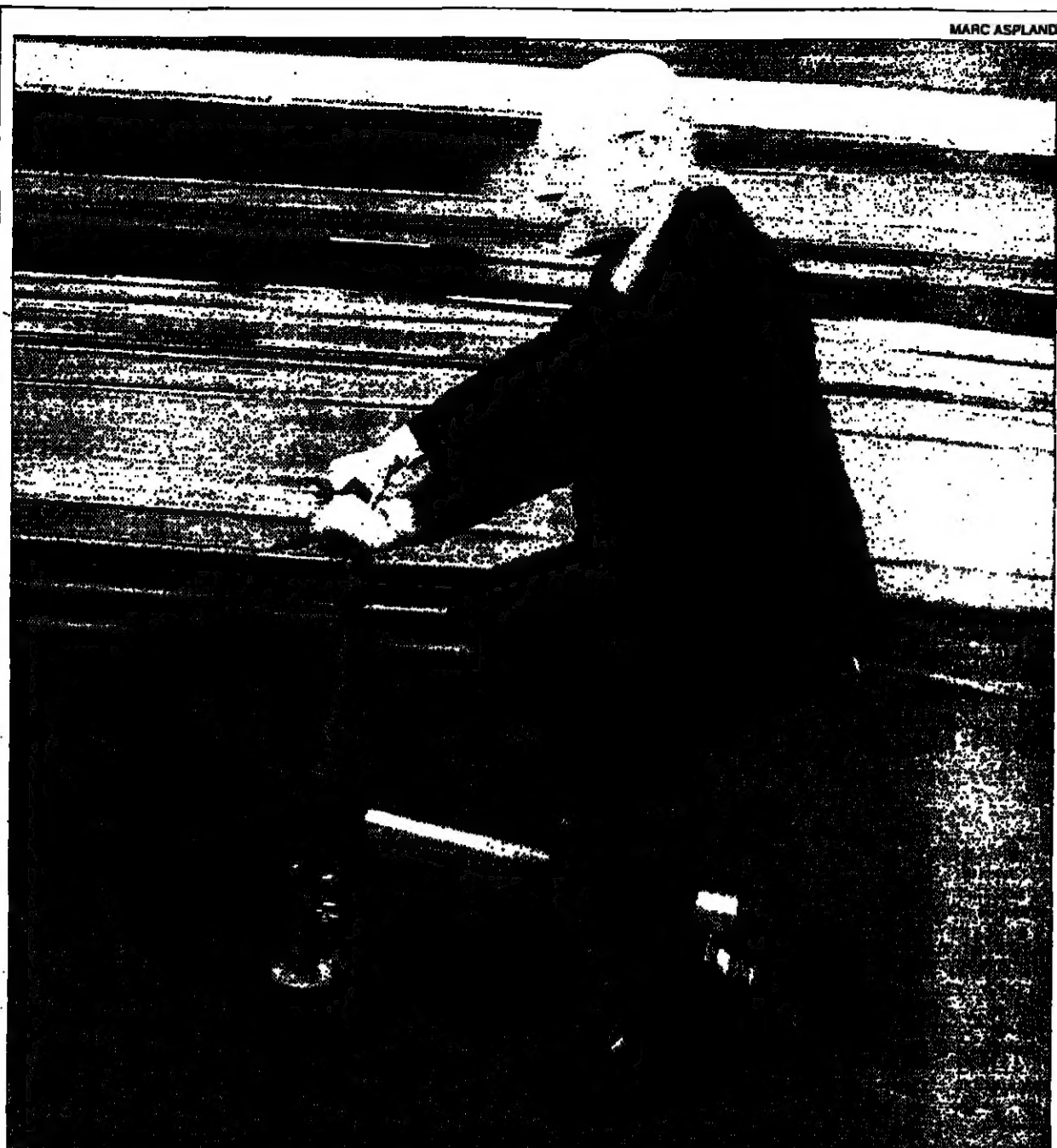
sailings, was called the "worst old tub inspected", with shabby lounges and bars.

The Consumers' Association magazine also found that travel agents often failed to paint a true picture. Despite a code of conduct adopted by the Association of British Travel Agents, *Holiday Which?* researchers found some brochures still misled holidaymakers.

Patricia Yates, the magazine's editor, said: "We have found all the time-worn tricks of deceptively glamorous photos and the language that you'd need a dictionary of euphemisms to decipher. It is about time tour operators respect their own code of conduct to give a fair and honest representation of what they sell. Brochures have a tremendous in-

fluence over holidaymakers: nine out of ten of our readers look at a brochure before they choose a package holiday." A picture from an Airtours advertisement for budget holidays in Greece, Turkey and Cyprus showed an alluring view from a luxury hotel that is actually in the Caribbean, the report says. One couple told the magazine that they had booked a holiday in Sri Lanka with Hayes and Jarvis, convinced by a brochure which listed a zoo among an hotel's attractions. The zoo turned out to be no more than a pet peacock and a polecat.

The report also labelled medical kits aimed at travellers as gimmicky, saying that they would be better used as lunch boxes.



Proud parent: Sir Clive confirms his claim that everyone riding his new brainchild breaks into a smile

A cycle of invention from Sinclair

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

SIR Clive Sinclair launched the Zike yesterday, the electric bicycle that is his first journey into the consumer market since the launch of his CS electric bicycle.

The experience of the CS has clearly not been lost on him and the Zike's design owes more to Alex Moulton,

inventor of the popular small-wheelers of the 1960s, than to Heath Robinson.

Ferran Newman, who worked on the CS and now runs Team Consulting based near Royston, Hertfordshire, said: "I do not think this is going to be a CS. You are not going to feel too silly riding around on this."

Whether that will be enough incentive to pay £499 for pedal assisted power

remains to be seen. The Zike, which weighs about 20lb and has no gears, can climb a 1 in 10 hill without any pedalling using its electric motor, Sir Clive said. On full electrical power it will run for between 30 minutes and an hour depending on wind and terrain at a top speed of 12mph.

At the heart of the machine, which needs no licence and can be ridden by any-

one over 14, is a lightweight nickel cadmium battery. It can be charged from the mains in an hour or when freewheeling and is neatly housed in the bar supporting the seat. The little electric motor, weighing less than 2lb, fits by the battery.

The Zike, which is expected to be available by mail order in May, is made from lightweight, rust-free alloys and composites.

Farmers dismiss claim for 55% rise

Farm workers launched a claim for a 55 per cent pay increase yesterday that would raise their minimum weekly wage from £129.43 to £200. Farmers said they could not afford any increase.

The issue will be resolved at a meeting next Monday and Tuesday of the Agricultural Wages Board. In recent years, when big wage claims were submitted and countered by farmers' pleas of inability to pay, the board awarded farm workers a rise on or slightly above the inflation rate.

In addition to a pay rise, farm workers want the minimum working week to be cut from 39 to 35 hours and annual holidays increased from 21 to 25 days.

Death crash

Matthew Slater, aged 19, of Shentfield, Essex, who drove a car that crashed, killing two friends, was sent to a detention centre for two years and banned from driving for ten years by Chelmsford crown court. He admitted causing death by reckless driving.

Libel case won

Detective constable Keith Dunn of the Metropolitan police accepted undisclosed libel damages in the High Court over an article in *The People* which claimed he took bribes from prostitutes.

Murder charge

Gregory Michael Hobbins, aged 30, of the Coldstream Guards, was remanded in custody until next Thursday by Brent magistrates, north-west London, accused of murder and the attempted murder of a policeman.

Festive opening

A 16th century farmhouse at the Welsh Folk Museum at St Fagans, South Glamorgan, is being rehatched after a fire damaged its roof. Firemen were able to contain the fire and damage to the rest of the building was superficial. It will reopen to the public in September to coincide with the museum's harvest festival.

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Question time row raises Commons temperature

Leaders clash over policies

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major and Neil Kinnock yesterday set the tenor of a bitter election campaign in a series of sharp exchanges on health, taxation and defence which took Commons electioneering to new depths. The Speaker appeared powerless as MPs howled down their opponents.

Mr Kinnock raised a series of examples of NHS patients denied treatment, he insisted, because of the inadequacy of the government's health policies. Mr Major insisted that the Conservatives had spent more on health than Labour had "dared to promise" at the last election and said that the new trust hospitals were treating more patients.

Mr Kinnock quoted a

University College Hospital specialist as saying that he could not give 30 per cent of his cancer patients chemotherapy treatment because the beds were not available. When Mr Major responded by quoting a doctor and former Labour candidate on the success of the government's health reforms, an angry Mr Kinnock told the prime minister to "address these issues of life and death instead of parading false claims about your government".

Accusing Mr Major of never answering the question, Mr Kinnock asked: "Why doesn't the government even now get rid of the tax concessions for private health insurance and put the £60 million

saved straight into fighting cancer. That's what a Labour government would do."

Mr Major said: "This would have more credibility if we were not spending more on the health service than you even promised to spend." It would have even more credibility, he said, if Labour were not pledged to introduce a minimum wage, which would cost the NHS £500 million. They had failed to set out their own plans for funding the health service.

Ministers are expecting Labour to do everything possible to bring health issues to prominence in the election, and Mr Kinnock instigated reports in recent weeks of a cardiologist "who has had to

turn seriously ill people away because of the budget system", of closed accident and emergency units and of a "mortally ill little girl being unable to gain treatment in a paediatric intensive care unit".

Mr Major retorted: "We have addressed those issues. That's why the waiting lists are falling by record amounts."

When Neil Thorpe (Ilford South, C) referred to the Trident nuclear submarine fleet, which Labour wants to restrict to three boats, Mr Major took his opportunity to say: "We have no intention of gambling with this country's defence."

Invited by another Tory MP earlier to comment on Labour's "savings tax", Mr Major raised furious shouts from the Labour benches when he said that the "damaging and vindictive" tax (a 9 per cent National Insurance levy to be paid on savings income of more than £3,000 a year) "would hit widows on ordinary incomes and people taking early retirement".

The Conservatives earlier devoted a press conference to the levy. Tony Newton, the social security secretary, said that it would take money from 1.1 million savers, 750,000 of them basic rate taxpayers, while abolition of the earnings limit would mean higher tax bills for 3.2 million people earning more than £20,280 a year.

SNP may gain from tactical vote

BY KERRY GILL

AS MANY as one third of Scottish Labour voters could switch their allegiance to the Scottish National Party if a Conservative general election victory looked likely, according to an opinion poll published last night.

The poll, carried out by System 3 for Scottish Television, asked Labour, Liberal Democrat and undecided voters if they would move to the nationalists in such an event. Eleven per cent said they would definitely vote SNP. Of the Labour voters 14

per cent said they would certainly vote for the SNP and 18 per cent said they might.

However, the poll also showed that support for independence continues to fall. Only 26 per cent favoured independence against 42 per cent support for a Scottish assembly and 26 per cent wanting no change to the constitutional status quo. Three-quarters were in favour of a referendum on the constitution.

An earlier poll published yesterday by Market Re-

search Scotland showed that support for independence had dropped to 30 per cent from an all-time high of 50 per cent in January.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, began a five-day tour of Scotland yesterday by attacking the increased polarisation of views over constitutional reform and challenging John Major and Neil Kinnock to join him in a debate on the implications of a Scottish parliament for the rest of the United Kingdom.



Joint venture: Neil Kinnock, with Sarah Franklin, aged 12, whose hopes and aspirations are included in Labour's new document

Kinnock presents his vision

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR offered an adventure in which families had new security, opportunity and confidence. Neil Kinnock said yesterday.

The Labour leader said his party had the policies to build Britain's economy out of slump and to enable it to compete in a Europe without trade barriers. He blamed the Conservatives for the "decay, debt, congestion and injustice" throughout the economy and claimed they had never prepared for the future.

Mr Kinnock outlined his vision for the decade ahead in a new document *Your land, my land*, in which economists, doctors, scientists, athletes and artists contributed their ideas for a "better way forward for Britain".

Dr Penelope Leach, the psychologist and author of the parents' guide *Baby and Child*, wrote: "The Britain I want to live in gives top priority to children... they are seen as the nation's best long-term investment." Dr Leach was one of several contributors at a press conference.

Mr Scrivener, a former chairman of the Bar, said there was deep frustration in the legal profession. "Crime has never been higher, conviction rates never lower and prisons never fuller."

The youngest contributor, 12-year-old Sarah Franklin, wrote: "In my Britain the whole community would work together for the good of the individual... and the individual would work just as hard for the community as a whole."



Minister stands up for fetes

David Maclean, the junior agriculture minister, warned local authorities not to target food sold by voluntary organisations at village fetes under the Food Safety Act.

Mr Maclean said at question time yesterday that there was nothing in the act, passed to tighten up on food hygiene, which could justify councils taking action against non-commercial bodies. "If town halls target Women's Institutes, church fetes, village halls and charity teas, then the government will take action."

Aid increase

The government scheme for helping British voluntary agencies with their work in developing countries is to get a grant of £28 million — a 22 per cent increase — in the next financial year, Lynda Chalker, the overseas aid minister, said. A further £135,000 is to be available to Albania. Feed the Children has been given surplus defence ministry medical supplies.

Fair play

A message of sympathy should be sent to the prime minister and people of Australia in their suffering, Lord Morris (C) said at Lords questions after England's victory in a World Cup cricket match in Sydney earlier in the day.

Betham's day, page 32

BT costs

The administrative costs involved in the British Telecom share offer amounted to £105 million, or about 1.9 per cent of the total proceeds from the sale of £5,403 million, Francis Maude, the Treasury financial secretary, said in a written reply.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on commonhold and leasehold reform. Lords (11): Parliamentary Corporate Bodies Bill, second reading. Northern Ireland Appropriation order.

Next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be:

Monday: Friendly Societies Bill, second reading. Debate on the new parliamentary building. Tuesday: The Budget. Wednesday and Thursday: Debate on the Budget. Friday: Debate on private member's motion on taxation and public expenditure.

The main business in the Lords is expected to be: Monday: Competition and Service (Utilities) Bill, committee, second day. Tuesday: Education (Schools) Bill, report. Wednesday: Liberal Democrat debate on constitutional reform and on Britain's rivers, coasts and beaches. Thursday: Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Bill, report. Friday: Asylum Bill, committee, first day.

UN troops 'should go into Sarajevo'

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

CALLS were made yesterday for the United Nations to send troops into the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo to calm the latest outbreak of fighting in Yugoslavia.

David Howell, chairman of the Commons foreign affairs select committee, told MPs that the UN forces were needed to achieve lasting hope and peace in Bosnia and to prevent a repetition of the bloodshed witnessed in Croatia and Serbia. There were now more than 13,000 UN troops in Yugoslavia and Mr Howell said that there were reports that the UN was planning to enter Sarajevo.

In a Commons debate, Donald Anderson, a Labour foreign affairs spokesman, gave a warning of the danger of authoritarian or military rule in the state and added that it was important for forces to go in to retain existing frontiers in Bosnia.

Julian Amery, the former Conservative foreign office minister, spoke of the dangers of German involvement in the Balkan states. He said that Germany's recognition

ahead of the EC, of Croatia and Slovenia as independent states was a sign that Germany was prepared to push into the area.

It was not a deliberate imperial effort, Mr Amery said, but a result of Germany's natural drive as a dynamic economy. Mr Amery, who made his maiden speech in 1950 on Yugoslavia, suggested that Britain, France and Turkey could become involved in keeping peace in the area and said that he hoped this would be a priority when Britain took over the EC presidency in July.

Michael Foot, the former Labour leader, however, sounded a warning against a partnership with Turkey, a country he called "one of the worst oppressors in the area".

He said that the adventurous policies of the Turkish government should deter Britain from wanting to be involved; a temptation prompted because Turkey looked like becoming a more influential power in the region.

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③ 4 Drawer Chest (600mm wide approx.)	£109.99	£84.99
④ 3 Drawer Chest (420mm wide approx.)	£59.99	£44.99
⑤ Bedside Cabinet	£34.99	£27.99

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AROUND THE LOBBY

Minister stands up for fetes

David Maclean, the minister for the unemployed, stood up for the value of fetes and other community events. He said that there was a lot of money being spent on these events and that it was a good way of helping the unemployed. He also said that he was proud to be a member of the fetes committee.

Aid increase

The government has announced a 10 per cent increase in aid to the developing world. This is the highest increase in aid for many years. The government said that it was committed to helping the developing world and that this increase was a sign of its commitment.

Fair play

A new law has been introduced to ensure fair play in the workplace. This law will require employers to provide a safe and healthy working environment for their employees. It will also require employers to provide training and development opportunities for their employees.

BT costs

The government has announced a 10 per cent increase in BT costs. This is the highest increase in BT costs for many years. The government said that this increase was necessary to cover the cost of the new services that BT was providing.

Parliament

The House of Commons has passed a bill to reform the law of defamation. This bill will make it easier for people to sue for defamation. It will also make it easier for people to defend themselves against defamation claims.

Next week

The House of Commons will debate a bill to reform the law of defamation. This bill will make it easier for people to sue for defamation. It will also make it easier for people to defend themselves against defamation claims.

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into Sarajev

Government ministers defend public spending boom

Tories give away £4bn in three weeks

By TONY DAWE AND SHEILA GUNN

NEW spending plans announced yesterday, including help for the unemployed and small companies, brought the amount of money pledged by the government in a variety of new schemes in the past three weeks to nearly £4 billion.

Every announcement has spelt good news, in terms of jobs saved and created, or in providing personal benefits, but each has been greeted with the cry of "bribe" by the Opposition. With the prospect of another £4 billion being handed out in next Tuesday's Budget, the shouting from the Labour benches is certain to increase.

The Times has spoken to ministers and civil servants about this "pre-election giveaway" and been assured that the schemes are "desk-clearing exercises" and the money comes within long-established capital expenditure plans for the coming years.

Independent experts, however, say they match a boom in public spending that has preceded recent general elec-

tions. In addition, government spending on advertising and promotion is expected to increase markedly in this financial year, as it did in the year preceding the 1987 election.

The latest attractions unveiled yesterday included the announcement by Peter Lilley, the industry secretary, of £11.5 million for research and development in areas of industrial decline. There was little surprise at Westminster that those areas covered some Tory marginal seats in Scotland, Wales, the Midlands and North of England.

At the employment department, an £18 million grant to provide high-level skills training for the unemployed was announced, while Tim Eggar, the education minister, promised extra funding to develop technology training in 62 schools.

Even Edward Leigh, the consumer affairs minister, got in on the act with a popular but inexpensive measure: a change in the law to

New schemes and extra funding announced by the Government in last three weeks		
Cost or Labour assessment of cost of the extra funding		
DEFENCE	Helicopters, trainer aircraft & missiles	£500m
	Five amphibious ships providing shipyard jobs	£500m
	1,000 air-to-air missiles ordered from BAE, safeguarding jobs mainly in North & Scotland	£570m
EDUCATION	Develop technology teaching in 62 schools	£15m
EMPLOYMENT	High level skills training for unemployed	£18m
ENVIRONMENT	Countryside initiatives incl. path/hedge/rover restoration, creating jobs & rescuing threatened species	£45m
	Additional funds for canal maintenance	£3m
FISHING	Grants for decommissioning vessels	£25m
HEALTH	Extra funds for voluntary hospices and compensation for HIV infection by NHS blood transfusions and tissue transfers	£50m
OLYMPICS	Grant for Manchester's bid for the event in the Year 2,000	£25m
PAY	Rise above inflation level sanctioned for medical profession, teachers and armed forces	£500m
PENSIONS	Concessions on NI contributions for people over 30 with private pensions over five years	£300m
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT	Freeing of EC funds to aid areas affected by pit closures	£125m
	Funding for new hospital in Scotland, Midland Metro and West Yorkshire Transport Museum	£20m
R & D	Grants for small and innovative companies	£11m
ROADS	Widening M6, dualising A1 north of Newcastle and improving trunk roads in Wales	£350m
SOCIAL FUNDS	Extra funds next year for the poor	£3,022m
TOTAL		

ensure that beer drinkers get their full pint from April 1994.

According to some economists, the pre-election pattern is most noticeable in government-approved pay rises. Doctors, dentists, nurses and other members of the medical professions, teachers and members of the armed forces are all to receive increases of between 5.5 and 8.5 per cent, well above the level of inflation on April 1.

The rises recommended by the pay review bodies and approved by the government

will all be paid in full and not in stages, as often happens, and that adds to the total cost of the award," Chris Trinder, research director of the Public Finance Foundation, said.

He said that pay rises due on April 1 had yet to be agreed for another three and a half million town hall workers, civil servants and other health service employees, but the signs were that, with the government unwilling to risk industrial unrest before an election, they too would receive a generous award.

"The evidence from every economic source is of a massive giveaway in election year," Mr Trinder said. He cited the Labour government's decision to honour high pay awards for public sector workers in 1979, the setting up of a separate pay review body for nurses in 1983 and the "non-staging" of pay awards in 1987.

Labour claims the recent inflation-plus public sector pay awards amount to a £500 million bribe. The government admits that £209 million of the total £1.8 billion required will come from the reserve fund but says this is not extra spending as the fund exists for such contingencies.



Wheeler: warning against "the more lurid fears"

Opposition MPs delay report on immigration

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR MPs have blocked publication before the election of a report demanding mandatory identity cards to control a potential flood of illegal immigrants.

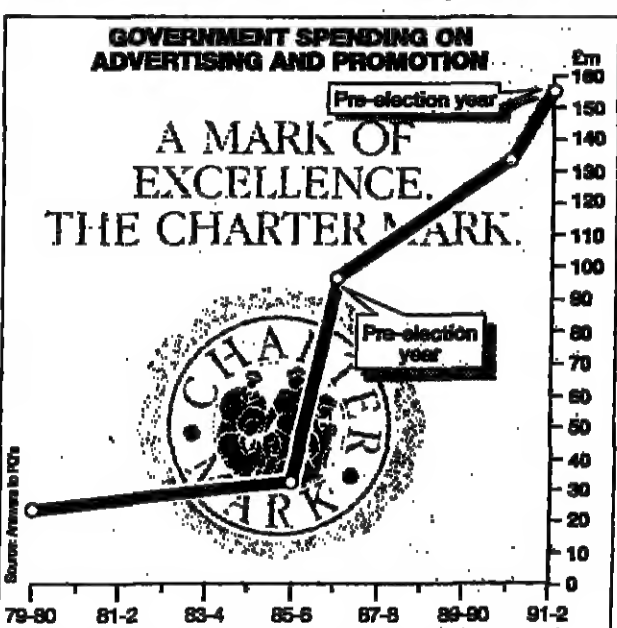
Some Opposition MPs on the Commons home affairs committee objected to making public this month the warnings given to them by chief constables, immigration officials and other witnesses of the likely impact of weakening frontier controls.

The chairman, Sir John Wheeler, asked the committee in a private session to sanction the publication of the evidence this month together with a summary of the findings in its enquiry into the EC's external border con-

trols. Sir John, the Tory MP for Westminster North, has already disclosed that, from the evidence, compensatory measures, such as ID cards, would be essential in place of strong frontier controls.

"No one can say with certainty to what immigration pressures the EC will be subject in the future. There are certainly demographic pressures, especially from North Africa, but we must beware the more lurid fears," he said.

The Labour MPs stopped publication of even the minutes of the public hearings until April 22. A senior source disclosed that they were anxious that the report could be used to portray Labour as soft on immigration.



Propaganda blurs line

THE government has been accused of blurring the line between official promotions and party propaganda in addition to making large pre-election handouts.

Frank Dobson, a member of the shadow cabinet, said that a threefold increase in government spending and promotion in 1986-7 was designed to give the Tories a boost in the 1987 general election and the same is happening now, with spending in the current year expected to increase by 15 per cent.

He makes three further claims:

- The government and Tory party publicity campaigns for the citizen's charter ran in parallel, making it difficult

to distinguish between public money and party money.

- The Cabinet Office is spending £1 million this year on press and public relations, compared with £200,000 last year, and a further £585,000 on advertising and promotion, compared with just £1,000 last year.
- The prime minister's office is spending £560,750 on press and public relations this year, a 32 per cent increase in two years.

"The Tories are desperate to hang on to power at all costs," Mr Dobson said. "No expense is being spared in John Major's struggle to stay in number 10, and in this case it is at the taxpayers' expense".

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World in recession fumbles chance to kick-start trade



Hills: a deal would boost world trade

THE world's industrial powers, with their economies slumping, are letting slip a unique opportunity to rejuvenate the global trading system. The most ambitious round of talks ever held under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is now only being kept alive by a life-support machine of technical discussions in Geneva. Although the next few weeks may witness attempts to resuscitate serious talks, key negotiators have written off the prospects of any deal this year.

The reasons for this failure lie in elections on either side of the Atlantic. A new GATT deal would modernise the whole international trade system and strike down barriers and tariffs for trade in everything from aspirins to avocados. But for the last eighteen months, as dead-

line after deadline has slipped away, negotiations have been paralysed by the ancient quarrel between Europe and America over farm subsidies. Any deal would involve losses for farmers on both continents. In America, President Bush is taking a battering in the presidential primaries and in no mood to inflame the farming constituencies. In France, the socialist government is set to take a beating in local elections at the end of this month. In neither country do politicians believe that a successful GATT deal would win them votes.

This political vulnerability has dogged the more than five years of GATT's "Uruguay Round". The benefits of free trade can be endorsed by ministers and they can even be expressed in speculative figures. Carla Hills, Ameri-

George Brock blames elections in America and France for the failure by GATT members to seize a unique opportunity to agree on modernising the international trade system.

ca's trade representative, thinks that an agreement would boost world trade in manufactured goods alone by \$5 billion (£2.9 billion) in the next decade. No deal at all could turn recession into a crash. Confronted with the sharp loss of income which a GATT deal would bring, French grain farmers see it as a real threat — and the French are ready to vote accordingly.

In retrospect, the best chance of avoiding these problems and of fashioning a compromise on farm support was probably missed last November. President Bush, Rud Lubbers, the Dutch prime minister who

was then chairing the European Community and Jacques Delors, the EC Commission president met in The Hague but failed to clinch an agreement. One EC official said that a second day of talks might have done the trick.

Since then, the outcome of the GATT talks — like every other important issue faced by the Community — has turned on the large but intractable figure of Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor. Germany, the EC's largest exporting nation, has a huge stake in the openings which GATT can provide for its firms. But its farmers, few in number, wield enormous

political clout. One of America's most cherished objectives in the talks is the reduction of Europe's subsidised grain exports — a cut which would strike deepest on German farms.

Tension between the farm lobby and economic liberalism is vividly expressed inside the governing coalition. Jürgen Möllemann, the energetic economics minister of the minority Free Democrats, has been criticising France — unconventional in itself for a minister in Bonn — and calling for a special summit of the G7 industrial nations to sort out the GATT. But this week, Herr Möllemann was crisply put

down by Herr Kohl's own spokesman: a G7 summit would not help and the Franco-German axis is as strong as ever, he declared.

A few GATT people think that these declarations of solidarity between the EC's founding partners are the prelude to a split between Germany and France. According to this prediction, American and EC Commission negotiators would sketch out a deal. For the Europeans, the deal to cut farm subsidies and protection would breach the strict guidelines laid down by farm ministers. But Ray MacSharry, the EC farm commissioner, would present ministers with a fait accompli. Mr Bush is due to meet Herr Kohl at the end of this month, just as the pressure is lifted from the French government by the end of the

regional election campaign. The scene would be set for Germany to join the EC majority in forcing France to accept a compromise.

This is pure optimism. Such a last-minute resolution requires American flexibility and a German readiness to punish both their farmers and France simultaneously — and assumes that GATT agriculture cuts can be disentangled from the Community's lumbering internal reform of the common agricultural policy.

Sources in Bonn believe that the German government has come out in support of France — and implicitly against any quick agreement — because the federal chancery believes that no agreement is now possible before 1993 and the election of the next American president.

Bitter Baku puts blame on Moscow

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN BAKU

PRESIDENT Mutsalibov of Azerbaijan defended his government's record in Nagorno-Karabakh before parliament here yesterday, while outside a crowd of several thousand roared for his resignation. His administration is still staggering from the Azerbaijani defeat at Khodjaly and the mass killing of refugees which followed.

President Mutsalibov, following a line which is being eagerly adopted by the Azerbaijani population, blames the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh on the former Soviet and present Russian governments. He said they had sided with Armenia and prevented creation of real Azerbaijani armed forces.

He admitted the failure to press ahead with this was "a mistake on our part. While we were simply trying to achieve

the attributes of sovereignty, the Armenians were building armed forces. They were talking peace, but secretly planning war."

The president called once again for negotiation and a peaceful resolution of the conflict. In this, he seems out of step with the mood here, which has become explosive since the full extent of the mass killings became clear. Parliament listened to him quietly — almost nine-tenths of deputies are his supporters. A much more real picture of the balance of forces in the country is given by the national council, which the president was forced to set up with 50 per cent representation for the opposition, led by the Popular Front.

● Moscow: Political and military leaders in the Commonwealth of Independent States have issued separate calls for the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to be solved by political means only, and have broached the possibility of a commonwealth peacekeeping force for the area (Mary Dejevsky writes).

Marshal Yevgeni Shaposhnikov, commander-in-chief of the commonwealth armed forces, said such a force could be used to "disengage warring sides in trouble spots and ensure political solutions".

Three sets of peace proposals were reported yesterday. President Yeltsin called for an immediate ceasefire and announced dispatch of a team of Russian diplomats on a mediation mission. President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan proposed an immediate ceasefire, lifting all blockades, and the suspension by both sides of plans to form armies. The Azerbaijani foreign minister also announced a peace plan during a visit to the UN in New York. This calls, among other things, for the disarming of "illegal" fighters on both sides and international monitoring.

Mary Dejevsky, page 14

Russian farms go to market

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

AT LEAST one-third of Russia's arable land will be turned over to private farming this year in a reversal of the brutal collectivisation policies imposed half a century ago by Josef Stalin, a senior official said yesterday.

Yet it will probably take more than a year for the privatisation process to have much effect on food shortages. Nikolai Kornov, the Russian official, acknowledged that smallholdings were not expected to contribute more than 2 or 3 per cent of the coming season's agricultural output.

Mr Kornov, who heads the Russian government's land reform committee, said the number of private farmers would rise substantially. The area under their control would jump more than 25 times to encompass at least a third of the 215 million hectares (538 million acres) now managed by ineffective collectives.

He said the current state of Russian farmland, which includes some of the richest soil in the world, was a terrible testimony to the effects of being left "without a master". Some 25 million acres of arable land which had existed, at least on paper, as of 1975 had somehow "disappeared" — either through poor husbandry or because it had been never more than a figment of the state planners' imagination.

A challenge from conservatives to the privatisation of farmland is likely to intensify today during a debate in parliament on agriculture.



All you need is love: three candidates of Italy's Party of Love — from left, Vima Bonino, Ilona Staller (La Cicciolina) and Luisa Pistorino — launching their campaign in Rome yesterday to be elected MPs. Wearing suspender belts, lace stockings, silver jackets and transparent bras, the porno queens said they wanted to bring more love to the legislature.

The colour was pink and the language spicy at a standing-room-only news conference as the trio presented the party's platform for national elections next month. "People's lives are just too grey," Riccardo Schicchi, the porno stars' busi-

ness manager, who is one of the party's 11 candidates for the lower house, said. Miss Staller, who knows how to sway a crowd, read the party's platform from a leaflet emblazoned with pink hearts. It includes: more sexual freedom in jail, no censorship, "love parks" where young couples can make love without fear, and legal brothels run by prostitutes co-operatives.

On the non-sexual side, the party platform includes environmental protection and a ban on weapons manufacturing. "This is not just a party of sex, this is a complete party," Giorgio Guelpa, a male candidate, said. The women are the stars

of the party, which needs a minimum of 50,000 votes in Rome to ensure that its top candidate at least, porn star Moana Pozzi, enters parliament. She did not attend the news conference.

"We are the only party that can stand for desire with a capital D," Marcella Buzzi, a literature teacher aged 33, said. One of the party's few women candidates who does not make her living with her clothes off, Signora Buzzi became an instant star when foreign television crews discovered that she alone could speak English. "Love is love," she said. "Love is everything." (Reuters)

Cresson's crusade against Le Pen misfires

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

THE ideological bankruptcy of France's ruling Socialist party has become starkly apparent as the campaign for the important regional elections this month moves into its final phase. Staring disaster in the face, the government can offer nothing more positive or encouraging than sustained attacks on Jean-Marie Le Pen and the resurgent National Front.

From platforms around the country, Socialist notables, led by Edith Cresson, have been reduced to mouthing dire warnings about the threat from the extreme right. The prime minister sets the tone with her denunciations

of M Le Pen as "a danger to democracy", and frequent reminders of the fearful perils of abstention: "Not voting is a betrayal that gives Le Pen half a vote."

To uncommitted observers here, the "Cresson crusade" against the far right is exposing her own government's lack of credible programmes to tackle the grave problems now facing the French. "How can you speak about Le Pen without also addressing the social issues?" Liberation asked on Wednesday in an analysis of the political and economic strains that have so clearly contributed to his party's dramatic advances. To

François Léotard, leader of the centrist Republican party, M Le Pen should be laughing all the way to the polls, having established himself as "the black star around which all political life revolves". The more flak he attracts from the Socialists, the better he likes it: here is a government clearly running scared, he exults.

Attempts to derail M Le Pen's campaign with street demonstrations and manipulation of local by-laws to prevent him from booking halls for National Front gatherings now threaten to rebound on the Socialists. M Le Pen yesterday invited the Parisian diplomatic corps and foreign

journalists to a press conference next week at which he promises to expose a dirty tricks operation against his party.

Nobody in French politics is more aware than M Le Pen that the imminent regional polls, normally of strictly limited political significance, have been transformed into what amounts to a dress rehearsal for the 1993 parliamentary election and, by extension, to the next contest for the presidency in 1995. At this stage, publicity — good, bad or indifferent — is his lifeblood, enabling him to reach into constituencies beyond the rock-solid support

he enjoys from his own hardcore voters.

That is why M Le Pen has adopted the highest of personal profiles, addressing rallies practically every day, issuing provocative statements and crying foul at every opportunity. The Socialists provide, Mme Cresson's call for Socialist activists to turn out in strength to oppose the National Front wherever its candidates show their face threatens to rebound on the government as M Le Pen comes hunting for votes in Socialist territory, as well as in the realms of France's disorganised and perennially divided orthodox right.

Balts set up forum for aid

BY ROGER BOYES

THE Baltic Council, a new East-West alliance, was set up with some fanfare in Copenhagen yesterday but it is not at all clear whether it can make the crucial leap from a talking shop to a significant international grouping.

The nine Baltic countries, plus Norway, share common interests and, since the time of the Hanseatic League, a common trading history. But there are many political differences — between Poland and Lithuania, between Russia and the three former Soviet Baltic states — and these seem likely to multiply rather than diminish.

The council will channel financial aid and knowhow from Scandinavia and Germany to Poland, Russia, and the poorer Baltic states. There will be two main concerns: halting the pollution of the Baltic, which experts say will suffer a biological death in ten to 15 years without a rescue plan; and the construction of two north-south highways. These roads are supposed to link Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to Poland, Germany and Scandinavia.

The Baltic Council countries are determined not to create another bureaucratic structure. There will be no permanent secretariat. Instead, there will be annual summits.

Gun rampage

Lagunas: A man shot dead five people and wounded seven with a Kalashnikov rifle in a two-hour rampage through three villages in southern Switzerland. Ermirio Criscone, aged 37, was arrested. (Reuters)

Airbus miss

Zurich: A Swiss fighter jet on manoeuvres missed a mid-air collision with a London-bound Swissair jet by less than 50 yards. The air force said the Airbus was on its correct course and the fighter banked left over it. (Reuters)

Guards protest

Moscow: About 100 Central Asian guards at a Russian prison camp in the Urals temporarily left their posts to protest against serving in a "foreign state" and to demand transfers to their home republics. (Reuters)

Back to Dutch

Amsterdam: The Netherlands, fearing that Dutch is becoming extinct through neglect, is to adopt a law forcing universities to teach primarily in Dutch. Currently several of them teach many of their courses in English. (Reuters)

Dog kills man

Moscow: Police say a hunter, killed near Novgorod, was shot by his dog caught in a trap. Scratches on the rifle butt proved that the struggling animal, near the body, pulled the trigger as the man tried to free it. (Reuters)

UK journalist picked for Polish defence ministry post

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

Radek Sikorski, the British journalist who has just been nominated as Polish deputy defence minister, has proposed renaming Poland's vast training grounds to NATO armies. The idea — conjuring up a vision of German soldiers trampling over Polish fields — and indeed Mr Sikorski's appointment, show how close the old Warsaw Pact armies are to joining NATO.

The Poles, Hungarians and Czechoslovaks will soon be participating in some NATO sessions and have

their representatives installed at NATO headquarters in Brussels. But it is contacts between the eastern and western military establishments that are giving shape to the new security order in Europe.

Sir Michael Quinlan, a senior British defence official, last month met Lajos Fuc, the Hungarian defence minister. According to Budapest reports, Britain offered to modernise Hungary's obsolete MiG fighters. Hungarian, Czechoslovak and Polish officers are being earmarked for training at the Royal College of Defence Studies,

and at United States military academies. America has set aside \$75,000 (£44,000) for training Bulgarian officers and Donald Rice, the US secretary of the air force, has been looking into pilot training schemes for the Bulgarians.

There is a sound commercial as well as strategic logic behind this kind of East-West military co-operation. Eventually the former Warsaw Pact armies will have to be weaned off Soviet equipment and become consumers of Western equipment. So far, that is expressing itself only in isolated contracts for boots and tents

and a dire state of East European army finances excludes any large purchases.



But there is a market for surplus or outdated West-

ern army vehicles and support aircraft which, despite their vintage, are still more fuel efficient than the current Soviet models. Selling hardware cheaply now will ensure that Eastern Europe, in about a decade, will be a regular customer. First, the officer corps has to be appropriately trained.

Jan Parys, the new Polish defence minister, has encouraged the resignation of all Polish army officers who "do not identify with the new North Atlantic option". He has just sacked two generals who were in the military council that

ruled Poland during martial law. The head of the army personnel department has been replaced by a civilian. All this is supposed to ensure that those accepted for officer training, and all those promoted to senior ranks, are in sympathy with the new NATO alignment.

That, too, was the reasoning behind the elevation of Mr Sikorski from Sunday Telegraph correspondent to deputy defence minister. If his nomination is accepted — it is still seen as controversial — Mr Sikorski will be in charge of Poland's relations with foreign armies and military organisations.

TEARS FOR FEARS



ALBUM OF THE WEEK

Tears Roll Down (Greatest Hits '82-'92) / CD £11.99 / Cass. £7.99.

Celebrating ten great musical years and twelve Top 40 singles from "Change" to "Laid so Low (Tears Roll Down)." "Everybody Wants to Rule the World," "Shout," and the triumphant "Sowing the Seeds of Love" are also featured.

WH SMITH
More to discover

West ready to call Saddam's bluff

Military strike kept as option against Iraq

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN and America are discussing the seizure of frozen Iraqi assets, and have not ruled out a new military strike if Baghdad continues to hinder the destruction of its weapons, London said yesterday.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said the United Nations Security Council had to "maintain the pressure" when Tariq Aziz, a deputy prime minister, heads a 15-man Iraqi delegation to the UN next week. After that, Mr Hurd said on BBC Radio 4, "we have to consider together, as we have successfully before, what is needed in order to make the pressure effective, and we have not ruled out a military strike".

The Foreign Office said that seizure of Iraqi assets was one of the options being considered with the Americans. Such action would not be easy to achieve, however, and the best course would be for President Saddam Hussein to im-

plement the UN resolutions which permitted Iraq to export oil to finance the purchase of food and medicine.

A spokesman said the work of the UN special commission was making progress in spite of Iraqi prevarication. It was now in the process of destroying some 300 unstable rockets, including some filled with chemical weapons. The pace of destruction had been increased to 40 rockets a day.

Mr Aziz will arrive in New York on Monday for the security council meeting that begins on March 11. Diplomats say the delegation is likely to be sharply questioned over Iraq's failure to comply with UN resolutions, and its obstruction of the work of UN inspectors. Rolf Eken, chairman of the special commission, will tell the security council that he believes Iraq is hiding chemical weapons production facilities, parts of its nuclear programme and a biological weapons production programme. The Iraqis will also be accused of not complying with resolutions calling for proper treatment of all Iraqis, especially the Shias and the Kurds.

British officials have been signalling that the West is determined to confront Saddam. "The pattern is clear: he is testing us and thinks that the West will give up and stop caring," one diplomat said.

Seizure of Iraqi assets would be complicated by banking secrecy which makes it hard to locate much of Iraq's wealth outside the

country. Iraqi diplomats have estimated that the reserves total between \$2 billion and \$5 billion (£1.2 billion to £3 billion). Saddam is reported to have taken about \$10 billion from oil revenues since 1981 and invested it abroad.

Mr Hurd suggested yesterday that Saddam's power had been weakened. "The days when he strutted about, sitting on Kuwait an apparent victor, have gone," he said. "He's a bedraggled figure in the Arab world as a whole, but he is still a tyrant capable of doing great harm to his own people."

In Washington, the State Department's senior official dealing with human rights insisted at least 20 babies died when Iraqi soldiers removed incubators from Kuwait hospitals after the invasion. Richard Schifter told a congressional subcommittee that he had visited Kuwait last month to talk to officials who had investigated the incident, widely reported at the time but subsequently denounced as unsubstantiated.



Cultural dialogue: Julie Christie, the British actress, talking to a Palestinian girl during a visit yesterday to the Jelazoun refugee camp, near Ramallah, in the occupied West Bank. Christie, who is accompanying a group of British performers, is on a week-long trip

Loss of Gulf cash forces PLO into cost-cutting retreat

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE Palestine Liberation Organisation is scaling down many diplomatic missions and closing its offices in some countries in austerity measures that could harm its ability to make its voice heard.

Many Palestinian publications have also been closed down as part of belt-tightening measures after the Gulf conflict, when Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, formerly the PLO's main financial

backers, accused Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, of siding with Iraq.

A PLO official said the cash shortage was forcing a review of priorities. He said: "You can't close down a hospital in the occupied territories, where there is a desperate shortage of health care, just to keep open a representative office in some African country."

He said missions in key capitals like Paris, Madrid, Athens and London would not be affected, but offices in

many African and Asian countries would feel the pinch. The PLO is also trying to make more cash available to open offices in the former Soviet republics. The cost-cutting process is being reviewed this week in Tunis, where Mr Arafat has summoned many PLO representatives.

A year ago the organisation was represented in 114 countries. The figure is now less than 100. There was rapid expansion in 1989 when the PLO was riding high on sympathy for the intifada. Many

countries, such as France and Spain, then upgraded relations when Mr Arafat implicitly recognised Israel, renounced terrorism and declared an independent Palestinian state. He could boast that more countries recognised "Palestine" than Israel.

However, that has changed since Eastern bloc countries mended ties with Israel after the collapse of communism. The PLO is now having to send new people to many Eastern bloc missions where long-serving envoys have

been associated with the former communist regimes.

PLO coffers have also been depleted by the loss of revenue from the 300,000 Palestinians driven out of Kuwait which, like other Gulf states, collected a 5 per cent levy on Palestinians on behalf of the organisation. Unforgiving Gulf states have cold-shouldered PLO overtures to mend relations. The PLO has long complained that Gulf money, pledged for the intifada, was going instead to the radical Islamic group Hamas.



Aziz leads delegation to the UN next week

Fire foils coalmine rescuers

FROM REUTER IN KOZLU, TURKEY

A NEW fire in the devastated Turkish coalmine of Kozlu yesterday forced back rescuers trying to reach 150 missing miners, a government minister said. The rescuers had been searching for survivors of Tuesday's methane gas blast from which 122 bodies have been recovered.

"We have withdrawn rescue teams who were working 425 metres (1,390 ft) underground and efforts to cut off air temporarily to put out the fire will start shortly," Omer Barutcu, a state minister, said. The fire, in an area thought to be under control, could become a big problem if it set coal seams ablaze. Starting at the bottom level at 1,800 ft, rescue teams had reached 980 ft and were tackling fires there when the new blaze erupted beneath them.

White smoke was pouring from a ventilator shaft above one wrecked section. Officials appeared to have given up hope of finding more survivors, but some miners insisted their comrades might still be alive.

A miners' union leader, Semsi Denizler, challenging the company's view that a freakish fast build-up of methane caused the explosion, said human error was more likely. Ozer Oker, head of the state-run company, said a 20-second surge in methane levels foiled a modern detection system.

Shamir goes on talking

FROM REUTER IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK Shamir, keen to show Israeli voters he is still wedded to Washington's peace initiative, yesterday rejected a Syrian idea to suspend Middle East talks until after the election on June 23.

"We feel we can resume before then," Ehud Gol, the prime minister's spokesman, said. "The one has nothing to do with the other." The earliest that the talks could resume would be next month, after the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and the Jewish Passover holiday.

Syria suggested the suspension when the fourth round of the slow-moving peace talks ended on Wednesday with no progress. Negotiators for Israel, the Palestinians, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon could not even agree where or when to meet next.

Israeli officials were eager to emphasise the positive, even though they could not point to tangible achievements. "We definitely feel we are making progress and have moved into issues of substance," Mr Gol said.

Elyakim Rubinstein, Israel's chief negotiator in Washington, who rejected the Palestinians' self-rule model as a blueprint for statehood, said that he wanted to hold more talks soon. The United States, co-sponsor of the talks with Russia, wants to keep them on track up to the Israeli election.

Aquino tells widow to copy her example

President Aquino of the Philippines, the widow of a murdered politician, has urged Rose Velasco, the widow of Octavio Velasco, a mayor assassinated in the latest outbreak of campaign violence, to take up politics and run in her husband's place in the May general elections. Mrs Aquino flew to Ternate, 28 miles southwest of Manila, to console the widow.

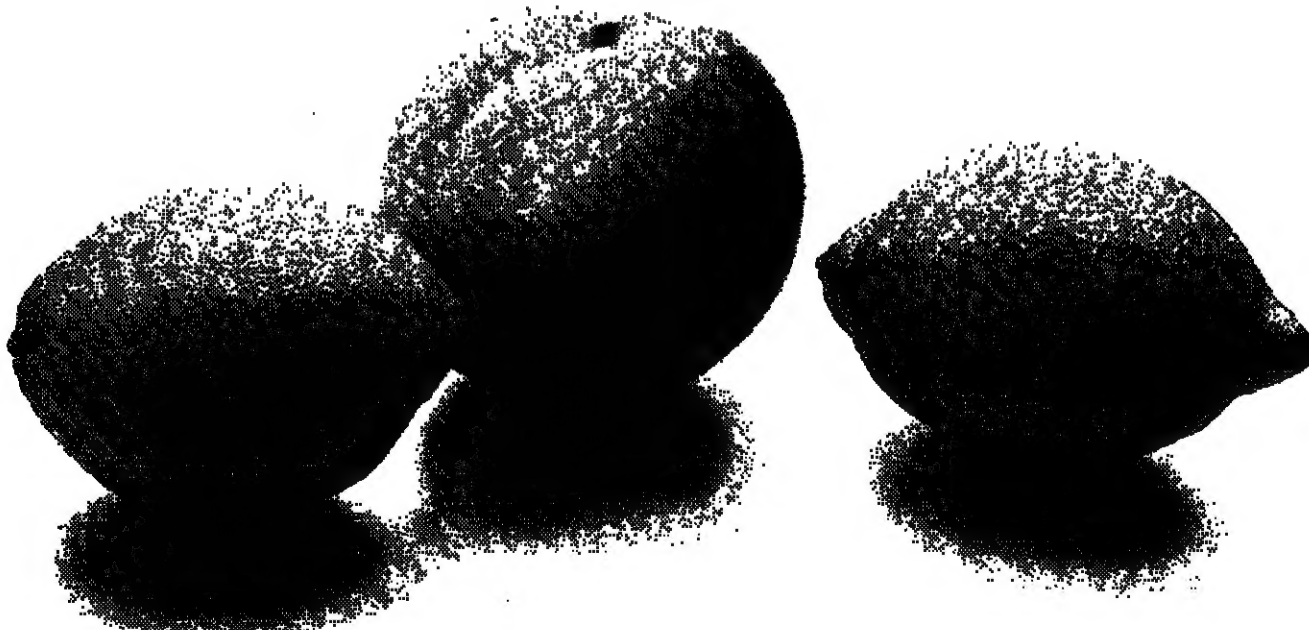
Film-maker Satyajit Ray, aged 70, who is to receive a special Oscar this month, has developed respiratory problems while undergoing treatment for an old heart ailment, his doctor said. Ray's film career, spanning 36 years, will be capped by the honorary Oscar which he will receive on March 30 for lifetime achievement.

Actor Paul Eddington, the prime minister from the tele-

vision comedy series *Yes, Prime Minister*, went to Downing Street to lobby his real-life counterpart and hand in a letter, signed by 100 arts and sports celebrities who back demands to ban tobacco companies' sponsorship deals. Spike Milligan, Rula Lenska, Ringo Starr, Bob Geldof, along with football manager Brian Clough and Olympic champion swimmer Adrian Moorhouse are among the backers of the protest.

Seisuke Ueshima, the new president of the Japanese musical instrument giant, Yamaha Corporation, has decided to punish directors for the company's reduced profits by cutting their salaries. A spokesman said the pay cuts would last for six months with the sharpest reduction of 20 per cent applied to the salary of Mr Ueshima himself.

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Bush targets South's racial factor in run-up to Super Tuesday

Kerrey bows out as race enters most critical lap

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

SENATOR Bob Kerrey of Nebraska withdrew from the presidential race yesterday, accepting that the Democratic nomination was now a contest between Governor Bill Clinton of Arkansas and Paul Tsongas, the former Massachusetts senator.

As the survivors attacked each other in the South in advance of next week's Super Tuesday polls, Mr Kerrey accepted that his failures in Colorado, Maryland and Georgia on Tuesday had left him "like the Jamaican bobsleigh team". In a gracious speech, he apologised to Mr Clinton for calling him "unelectable" on account of his personal problems. "The only unelectable candidate running for the presidency is George Bush," he said. Mr Kerrey had finished fourth or fifth in all seven primaries and caucuses on Tuesday, despite his victory last week in South Dakota.

His decision to withdraw highlights the change in political expectations since the beginning of the year, when the Nebraska senator appeared to Democrats and pundits as the symbol of the new post-Cold War politician. He had a brilliant military past, present glamour and a commitment to "fundamental change" for the American future. But he had no immediate response to the economic worries that were setting the agenda in New Hampshire and the South. Quoting the singer Bruce Springsteen yesterday, he said that his decision was "no retreat, no surrender". But an observer in the marbled Hart building on Capitol Hill quipped: "No substance either."

Meanwhile the Republican challenger, Patrick Buchan-

an, who has proved the wise men of Washington wrong this year, continued his own campaign in the South. In Louisiana he launched his first mild attack on his rival for the protest vote, former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke, whom he will face for the first time in Saturday's South Carolina primary.

Mr Buchanan has been under pressure for some time from his critics to disavow Mr Duke firmly and openly as President Bush has. Speaking in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Mr Buchanan said carefully that he condemned Mr Duke's KKK past and his marching in Nazi uniforms.

Mr Buchanan appealed to those who supported Mr Duke in last year's governor's race, some 55 per cent of the white electorate, to express their economic protest by a Buchanan vote next week. Those who wanted to launch a protest vote "should cast it for someone who can beat Mr Bush", he said.

The White House is hoping to force Mr Buchanan to overplay his racial cards in his search for a Louisiana victory. If Mr Buchanan can be tied to the racist past and present of Mr Duke, it is argued that he will become more vulnerable in Northern states like Michigan and Illinois, which form the next electoral hurdle after Super Tuesday.

Since Mr Buchanan's strong showing in Georgia earlier this week, Mr Bush has intensified his attacks on purveyors of race hatred. He said he does not mention Buchanan by name, but the barbs are becoming increasingly more pointed.

The White House also broadcast yesterday its stron-



Ripe for the picking: Bush admiring a giant strawberry at the Plant City strawberry festival in Florida. The president is on a tour of the South after primary victories in Maryland and Georgia on Tuesday

gest counter to Mr Buchanan's charge that the president supports preferential quotas for blacks in employment. Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, a noted segregationist in the 1950s and a pivotal figure in Southern Republicanism, is featured in a Bush-Quayle television advertisement saying: "I would never support racial quotas and I am proud to stand with our president today." There is "not a grain of truth" in Mr Buchanan's charges, the advertisement, aired in South Carolina yesterday, concludes.

President Bush's advisers hope that their battered candidate has now entered a

calmer zone of the battlefield. Texas, where Mr Bush's official residence is an \$800 (\$465) a night hotel suite, is an immense, expensive and unwelcome place for an outsider like Mr Buchanan to compete in. Mr Bush spoke in Houston this week of the tears in his eyes when he came home to the sight of bluebonnet flowers in the fields and cattle lowing on the range.

Texas are likely to believe him in sufficient numbers to knock Mr Buchanan below his 36 per cent score in Georgia. The latest poll yesterday showed Mr Bush with a lead of 79 to 14.

Florida, too, is favourable territory for the president. Its

Republican party is dominated by Cubans in the south and retired military officers in the north. Mr Buchanan's ideal of returning America to its white European values is no message to take to Miami. Nor is his isolationism and opposition to the Gulf war likely to win him friends around Tampa, where President Bush campaigned with General Norman Schwarzkopf on Wednesday.

The greater White House worry is that Mr Buchanan will weaken Mr Bush in Florida for the general election. After the Democratic victory in last year's governor's race, Republicans expect a close fight this November, particu-

larly if Mr Clinton is the Democrat nominee.

The Clinton campaign looks strong in Florida. The Arkansas governor, who earlier this year had been seen as leading the Democrat right, is now bidding hard for traditional black and blue-collar voters against the more business-oriented campaign of Mr Tsongas. This reversal, like the unrolling of the president, the withdrawal from the race by Mr Kerrey and the end, for the moment of sex and draft-dodging politics, is the story of the 1992 nomination campaign as it enters its most critical phase.

Leading article, page 15

Burma's bombs rain down on defiant Karens

Burma's Karen guerrillas are resisting an offensive by the military junta of unprecedented scale and ferocity, writes Adam Kelliher in Manerplaw

The Burmese air force waits for morning mist shrouding the mountainous eastern jungles to lift before bombing and strafing Manerplaw, capital of the resistance movement against the military junta.

Missions aimed at extinguishing the insurgency now take place daily. One raid this week came as we were about to begin a lunch of sweet tea, rice and freshly plucked bananas. Our host, Tuja Manam, was first to hear the distant drone of piston-engined bombers and said with a blast air: "It's time to go now. Here come the planes."

We stumbled out of his thatched hut down to the banks of the Moei river to shelter beneath a cliff and view the raid. Karen guerrillas manning heavy-calibre machineguns on craggy hilltops opened up, pasting the skies with a wild range of fire that kept the predators at a high altitude.

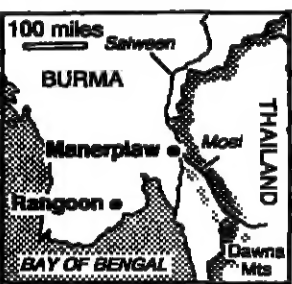
The pair of Swiss-made aircraft of the Burmese air force lazily circled as they selected targets and then began a series of howling dives out of the hazy blue sky. Bombs were released at about 1,500 ft and obliterated a grove of vines, bamboos and hanging flowers some 500 yards away. Next came several sloppy strafing runs with newly equipped Gaffing guns.

After about 30 minutes, the aircraft peeled off, and echoing counterfire stopped. A soft hiss signalled that the second attack was coming, this time from F6 jets, a Chinese-made version of the MIG 19. These dropped bombs on supply bases.

Karen rebels' vulnerability. China and Singapore-based arms dealers are Rangoon's main suppliers, but the junta has also secured hard cash from Japanese, Thai and Taiwan businesses eager to buy Burmese gems and teak. The Karens have been fighting the power of Rangoon since 1949. But the scale and ferocity of this year's dry-season offensive are unmatched. When Rangoon crushed anti-government demonstrations in 1988, dissidents fled to the swath of territory held by the Karens in eastern Burma bordering Thailand, with Manerplaw becoming the seat of an alternative coalition government.

Karen officials estimate that 14,000 soldiers backed by air power and artillery have been involved in the offensive, which so far has conquered three strongholds to the south, areas that provided the Karen militants with some 70 per cent of their revenue from cross-border taxation.

The advance has been blocked by guerrillas resisting on peaks overlooking the Salween river. If these posts are lost, Rangoon will have artillery firebases from which to pound Manerplaw, which they have declared must be captured by March 27, Army Day.



US makes aid deal with Hanoi

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

THE United States is to increase its humanitarian aid to Vietnam, in exchange for Hanoi's agreement to allow US experts to search for American servicemen still listed as missing in action from the Vietnam war.

Announcing in Hanoi the \$3 million (£1.7 million) in additional aid yesterday, Richard Solomon, the US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian affairs, praised the Vietnamese government for its willingness to co-operate in resolving the issue of missing servicemen. But he rejected Hanoi's calls for an immediate end to the American economic embargo on Vietnam.

Mr Solomon said: "As we see productive results in these POW-MIA [prisoners of war/missing in action] activities, the embargo will be lifted in stages." Over 2,000 American servicemen are still listed as missing in Southeast Asia.

In exchange for the increase in aid, Vietnam has agreed to a search programme for missing servicemen lasting two years.

It has also promised to work with neighbouring Cambodia and Laos to account for the lost servicemen.

China attacks Hong Kong tax rise

FROM JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

CHINA yesterday criticised Hong Kong's revenue-raising budget in the latest and most unexpected of attempts to interfere in the running of the colony while it is still under British control.

The attack came during a visit to the territory by Lord Calhoun, the Foreign Office minister, who said Britain would not kowtow to Peking to smooth Hong Kong's return to Chinese control in 1997.

Lu Ping, the director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, said the 1 per cent increase in corporate profits tax to 17.5 per cent, announced by Hamish Macleod, the financial secretary, in his budget speech on Wednesday, was a breach of Hong Kong's post-1997 mini-constitution, the Basic Law. Mr Lu accused Mr Macleod of



Calhoun: kowtowing to Peking ruled out

increasing taxes to pay for expenditure, instead of tailoring government spending to the available revenues as the Basic Law demands.

He said that expenditure on Hong Kong's ambitious airport and infrastructure programme would push up inflation, placing an unfair burden on the taxpayer. His remarks reflect China's concern to maintain Hong Kong's low-tax, capitalist system at a time when the communist regime is pressing for accelerated free-market reforms in its own economy.

Since his arrival in the colo-

ny last weekend, Lord Calhoun has become embroiled in a widening war of words with Mr Lu over plans to hive off Radio Television Hong Kong, which China wants to retain as a government mouthpiece.

Britain insists the privatisation is a matter for the Hong Kong government, but in a move reminiscent of last year's Chinese campaign to win control over the airport, Mr Lu has threatened to make the fate of the radio station a matter for direct negotiation between Peking and London. Peking has also

begun appointing advisers on Hong Kong affairs, which local politicians fear may be an attempt to bypass the local legislature.

Entrepot talks: Nations co-operating on plans to develop a Hong Kong-style entrepot around northeast Asia's remote Tumen river will meet in Peking next month, a UN official said. Delegations from China, Russia, North Korea, South Korea and Mongolia are expected at the talks on the planned port and industrial complex straddling North Korea, Russia and China. (Reuters)

Africans offer ivory concession

FROM VIBEKE LAROI IN TOKYO

FIVE southern African nations yesterday offered the first concession in a heated battle over the ivory trade which has dominated a world wildlife conference in the ancient Japanese capital of Kyoto.

Botswana, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Namibia said they would consider a voluntary moratorium on the ivory trade which is currently banned worldwide. South Africa said it would continue to forbid any import or export of ivory or ivory products for the time being.

The five have not, however,

withdrawn their requests that the African elephant be reclassified under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) to allow a limited trade in ivory. The trade was banned at the previous Cites meeting in 1989 after the African elephant population fell by 50 per cent from 1.2 million in 1981.

"This is the first tangible sign that we have received of movement on the elephant issue by the southern African countries," said Simon Stuart, head of the delegation from the International Union

for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). "Although there are still elements in the southern African position that cause some concern among member states of Cites, IUCN hopes that all the participants will recognise that this is a significant advance." The offer could be the basis for negotiations on a compromise, added Mr Stuart, whose organisation groups both government and non-government members.

Mr Stuart expressed concern over the voluntary nature of the proposed ivory moratorium. (Reuters)

China foils UN vote on Tibet

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

AS TIBETANS marked their traditional New Year, all but cut off from the outside world yesterday, Peking celebrated its defeat of a draft United Nations resolution which would have condemned Chinese abuses of human rights, especially in Tibet.

In victorious mood, Wu Jianmin, the foreign ministry spokesman, said that China had "foiled" the resolution, which would have been the first international vote on Tibet since 1965. He described it as an "attempt by some people to interfere in China's internal affairs under the pretext of the so-called human rights issue."

Mr Wu blamed the censure motion on upper-class Tibetan agitators and hostile foreigners. "The so-called human rights issue in Tibet is the sole making of a handful of Tibetans who in the past rode roughshod over the vast numbers of Tibetan serfs and are now actively engaging in national separatism in collusion with certain international hostile forces," he said.

"The Tibetan issue has nothing to do with human rights but is one that bears on China's sovereignty," Mr Wu said. He added that all Chinese people, including minorities, enjoyed human rights. The resolution, which was

to have been tabled at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, was sponsored by the European Community and supported by Tibetan exiles led by the Dalai Lama, their spiritual leader. China, however, enlisted the help of friendly Third World countries to counter-attack, with the result that the resolution criticising Peking was never put to the vote. All this just went to prove, said Mr Wu, quoting an ancient Chinese proverb, that "a just cause enjoys wide support while an unjust cause finds little support."

Chinese troops marched into Tibet, which China says it held traditionally had suzerainty over, in 1951. The Dalai Lama fled in 1959 after an abortive uprising, after which Peking began to change Tibet along communist lines. Many monasteries were destroyed or disbanded. Protests against Chinese rule were organised in the capital, Lhasa, during the Tibetan new year in 1989, and Peking imposed martial law. In the bloodshed which resulted, officials said 16 people died. Tibetans say that the figure was actually nearer 60.

Fearing trouble in Tibet this new year, Peking last month banned all independent travellers from Tibet, allowing in only tightly-controlled tour groups. So far there has been no news of unrest in Lhasa, but as foreign journalists are banned and diplomats are only rarely invited in, such reports tend to leak out only slowly.

In the past few weeks, Peking has produced a flood of propaganda aimed at creating the impression that Tibetans are delighted by Chinese rule. But the New York-based human rights organisation, Asia Watch, recently produced a report in conjunction with the London-based Tibet Information Network, stating that since 1987 about 360 political prisoners had been arrested, and that as of last September 240 remained in detention.

In the past few months Peking has allowed foreign human rights delegations into some of Tibet's prisons, but reports have emerged that political prisoners, who had to speak out about their conditions, were later beaten by their Chinese guards.

Sind rival of Bhutto dies at 57

Karachi — Jam Suddiq Ali, the flamboyant chief minister of Pakistan's southern Sind province and arch-enemy of Benazir Bhutto, the former prime minister, died yesterday at his Karachi home aged 57 (Zahid Hussain writes).

The Sind administration declared three days of mourning, closing government offices and schools. The ailing chief minister died of cirrhosis of the liver. Mr Suddiq Ali ruled over Pakistan's most turbulent province, racked by years of bitter ethnic violence. In the 1990 elections he formed a coalition of independents and the Mohajir Qami Movement (Refugee People's Movement) to bring peace to Sind.

It is feared that his death may break up the coalition, leading to a resurgence of violence. Ms Bhutto repeatedly accused him of victimising her Pakistan People's Party, once the strongest party in Sind. She said thousands of party workers were in jail, most of them never charged. Mr Suddiq Ali's government denied this and accused Ms Bhutto of running a terrorist organisation.

Coup crushed

Nairobi: Burundi has arrested about 30 soldiers who attempted a coup in the Central African country, according to state radio. Adrien Sibomana, the prime minister, accused Libya of backing the mutinous troops. (Reuters)

Assault case

Simi Valley, California: Four white police officers have gone on trial here charged with assault after a passer-by took a video of them beating up a black motorist. The video, widely seen on television, will be shown in court.

Royal salute

Wellington: A newspaper survey found that 72.2 per cent of New Zealanders want to keep the Queen. The result contrasted with a similar recent poll which found that just over half of Australians wanted a republic. (Reuters)

Lions' scare

Johnannesburg: Many lions in South Africa's Kruger national park have the feline version of AIDS, the Star reported. But it said they appeared to have built up an immunity. (AP)

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Rites of wildlife lobby bewilder Japanese

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

A COMICAL stand-off has developed at this week's Kyoto conference on endangered wildlife species, between the Japanese delegation, with its supporting flocks of deferential and exquisitely dressed secretaries, and the zealous animal welfare campaigners from the rest of the world who have streamed on to Japanese territory with their provocative pamphlets.

The Japanese, who have few non-governmental campaigning groups of their own to speak of, and certainly none that would ever dream of attempting to sway the government, are bewildered by the international animal rights groups and their fiercely competitive campaigns for publicity and funds. As hosts this week of the Convention for Interna-

tional Trade in Endangered Species (Cites), the Japanese have politely handed out leaflets advising on protocol and the behaviour expected at a Japanese conference. But the home team is unaccustomed to long hair and sandals.

There has been much curiosity and a certain amount of envy expressed by the Japanese over the activists' rich array of colourful ties, which feature leaping gazelles, tigers and dolphins, and over the hippopotamus cufflinks and unisex animal motif jewellery. Young Japanese professionals, who live much of their lives under the strictures of corporate protocol, always fasten their skirt cuffs with clear buttons and wear plain-coloured ties until they reach a certain level of seniority, when they can gradu-

ate to striped or spotted ties. Muted paisley designs are generally reserved for director level, but a Cubist block print or a Liberty floral number would brand its owner a maverick.

The world's animal rights campaigners, for their part, have been astonished by Japan's eating habits. After heated committee debates on the future of certain endangered species of turtle, delegates were shocked to find that Kyoto's most famous and exclusive dish was turtle soup, and that its second most famous delicacy is "dancing fish", a dish consisting of tiny live fish for swallowing whole.

Branded ten years ago as having the world's worst reputation as an importer of

wildlife, Japan has recently done much to clean up its image by supporting the international ban on ivory trading and agreeing to stop fishing squid with drift nets. It remains intransigent, however, on whaling and it still logs hardwood forests to unacceptable levels. Japan still has a long way to go to be world environmental leader.

Delegates have been puzzled by Japan's startling lack of evident wildlife. The Duke of Edinburgh, who visited the conference on Wednesday, spoke for many when he speculated that animal conservation might be extremely easy in Japan. On the way to Kyoto, passing through the vast metropolis of Osaka, "all I saw was one crow, and that was in the grounds of the imperial palace," he said.

Lions' scarf A

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a person, likely a woman, sitting and holding a small cup or bowl. The image is heavily stylized with a grainy, high-contrast effect, making the subject appear almost like a silhouette against a bright background.

Now it's on
everybody's
lips.

IF HÄAGEN-DAZS Ice Cream is dedicated to pleasure, their advertising is dedicated to success. Between July and September 1991, they advertised in newspapers and their supplements. During this period brand awareness doubled, rising from 9% to 21%. And sales in major outlets rose by a third. For the pleasure that only success can bring why not advertise in national newspapers.



Above their station

Philip Howard on TV's lack of social etiquette

Reading isn't everything, is it? No, but it's a lot of fun, even vicariously on television. The AB television-watching classes were glued to their screens last night for Mary Wesley's *The Camomile Lawn*, the latest of the costume sagas that the British flatter themselves on being so good at, but which are always let down by their uneasy grasp of class.

Brideshead Revisited got the gilded youth of Oxford ludicrously wrong, even in the book. Evelyn Waugh was a brilliant satirist, but definitely not upper-class. That was one of his hang-ups. On television, *Brideshead* came out as high camp. It was declared, persuasively, by a former proprietor that the *Daily Mail* was written by shop assistants for shop assistants. Today his readers are also commuters on a line from Essex. Television dramas are made by the shop assistant classes.

The upper classes do not make TV programmes, and may not even own a set. They do not believe in class differences. Luckily, butlers and television directors disagree. It is the little nuances of class which add to the gaiety of the nation by going wrong, and sticking out like sore pinkies while drinking tea.

In *The Camomile Lawn*, no expense has been spared to create the illusion of London in wartime, and the melancholy atmosphere of steam trains full of standing troops. Mary Wesley is from the upper-middle classes, so the dialogue usually rings spot on. "Shall I do the greens? I know how," and "I feel a pill" sound to me and to Eric Partridge, a genuine period slang. I was less persuaded by the period correctness of some of the explicit sexual language, though I was not taking an interest in such lingo at the time, and am almost certain that "randy" in the sense intended is an anachronism.

It is when the programme gets to the manners of class that things, as usual, go hilariously wrong. Peter Hall, who directed *The Camomile Lawn*, and Ken Taylor (of *The Jewel in the Crown*), who wrote the screenplay, would indignantly deny the ascription that they are upper-class. They come from the TV classes, the lower-middle and fascinated by class distinctions.

The upper-classes of the period really were not excited by the absence of knickers, and they did not keep their napkins in rings, nor did they call them serviettes. For a dinner party, even *à la fresco*, they did not lay the pudding spoon and fork at the top of the place setting.

The dining classes of 1939 did not drink their brandy out of great engraved goldfish bowls of Waterford glass. They had been brought up to hold a bottle round the neck, but a woman round the waist, not vice versa. No gent then took cream in his tea, or knew the word bourgeoise. It would have been a fatal solecism in those days to wear a stick-up collar with a black tie and dinner jacket. Stick-up collars were for white tie and full evening dress. I can see how a bright young props researcher might think stick-ups looked more classy, but when even stuffy old Uncle Richard turned out improperly dressed for the last dinner before war, he destroyed my willing suspension of disbelief. Being properly dressed for the occasion is the sole function of the upper-classes. And their shibboleth.

The odd custom of making a moaning noise like a plangent heifer while kissing someone on alternate cheeks has come in only in the last 10 years, and is from suburban, not Belgrave. The upper classes are reluctant kissers. Sunbathing to get brown is a recent craze of the middle-classes, who want to show off to their colleagues at work about their sizzling holidays. The upper classes wore sunhats and rubbed lemon into their faces to preserve their true blue pallor. The programme did get the patronising class gradation to the vicar's wife just right, and also the crude anti-Semitism. But the only one of the whole bunch who got the class signals almost right was Rebecca Hall, playing Sophie as a young girl.

The rest was lovely, romantic (sociologically wrong) high camp about a lost love who never existed like that at all. Felicity Kendal and Paul Eddington are lovely, but U they are not. Television has lifted the manufacture of class nostalgia out of the sphere of handicraft, and made it a major industry. With the rest of the shop assistant classes, I am waiting agog for next Thursday. With my notebook.

Lynne Truss reviews *The Camomile Lawn* in today's *Life & Times*, page 3.

The massacres in Nagorno-Karabakh may be the first of many as Russia retreats, says Mary Dejevsky

Bloodstains on the map

When the Soviet Union became the Commonwealth of Independent States, so-called, there were widespread predictions of violence, even civil war. In the short term the predictions have proved false. The vast expanse of Russia is at peace.

Without the threat of central intervention, however, existing local conflicts have sharpened, and as the political map has changed, so have the ramifications of these conflicts. The almost constant fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh and the bullets flying sporadically in Moldova are still only local conflicts, but the regional contexts have changed beyond recognition.

So long as the Soviet Union existed, fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh, Georgia or Moldova could be treated as peripheral. It was Moscow's problem, and the metaphorical fence which surrounded the Soviet Union acted as a reasonable assurance that it would spread no further.

That fence melted away with

the Soviet Union. Those small regions and republics on the edge of the empire can suddenly be seen in their geographical — rather than their political — surroundings. For Nagorno-Karabakh, Moldova and their neighbours, the world no longer ends at the Soviet frontier.

Nagorno-Karabakh, in disputed territory at the meeting of Christian Armenia and Muslim Azerbaijan, has become part of a circle which includes Ankara, Baghdad and Tehran. Moldova is part of a circle which encloses Romania and the Balkans. Local conflicts such as these can no longer be dismissed as someone else's problem; nor will they be safely contained by the Soviet perimeter fence. Turkey and Iran are openly competing for the favours of the former Soviet republics in the south. Both have been tempted to try to

settle the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, if only to remain on good, and potentially profitable, terms with them.

Should full-scale war break out between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh — which is still not inevitable — Turkey, Iran and others may be tempted to take sides. Turkey has old scores to settle. Iran wishes to "protect" Azeris related to its own Azeri population. For both, there is influence, and possibly territory, to be won.

An attempt by either to grab territory or "buy" influence might encourage others not only to contest the victors' right to their spoils, but to test the weakness of other parts of the southern Soviet border. Western countries, for their own reasons, have studiously declined to exploit Moscow's current weakness openly. Others,

however, may show less caution.

The party least likely to intervene directly at present is probably Russia. Contracting almost before our eyes, Russia seems to feel no obligation except to its own — a commitment that ends at the official border of Russia, possibly even short of it, now that the country has almost washed its hands of the northern Caucasus as well.

The ideological background to Russia's disengagement was given in the *Nezavisimaya gazeta* this week by the leading democratic commentator Dmitri Furman. "If the USSR and Gorbachev had a moral right, even a duty," he wrote, "to act as a gendarme in establishing order on the territory of the USSR — which was, after all, a single federal state — then Russia, which helped to destroy the union, has no such right."

Warning Russia against even an attempt to mediate, he went on: "It was too recently that we were the 'Big Brother', our great-power habits are still too strong for anyone in the Caucasus to believe that our mediation is not simply a covert attempt to 'return'."

Furman's views are not fully shared by the Russian leadership, which draws a distinction between intervention, which it rejects, and mediation — by which, as Boris Yeltsin's latest appeal suggests, it may seek to preserve some regional influence. In other words, the Commonwealth high command seems to be similarly intent on retaining influence, proposing a joint Commonwealth peace-keeping force.

Its deeds, however, show something different. The high command's response to the up-

surge of violence in Nagorno-Karabakh was to order first the neutrality and then the withdrawal of former Soviet troops, to prevent them becoming embroiled in a conflict they had initially been dispatched to prevent. When a land withdrawal became difficult, an airlift was arranged. In Moldova, the high command has also instructed CIS troops not to intervene.

In neither place does this order mean that troops will not act independently, but it does mean that they act without Moscow's backing. Suddenly, it seems, a speedier withdrawal of all former Soviet troops from other regions, including the Baltic, is hindered less by considerations of dignity than by practicalities: housing the returning officers and transporting the hardware.

Moscow, as the military men are undoubtedly aware, looks much further now from the Caucasus than it did last autumn. And the Caucasus looks correspondingly closer to the cauldron of the Middle East.

Lamont's Budget jitters

The Chancellor faces a gloomy Tuesday, writes Peter Riddell

Norman Lamont's problem is that he cannot hide his innate Celtic pessimism. Unlike ebullient fore-runners such as Denis Healey or even Nigel Lawson, he is not a good dissembler and does not always look as if he enjoys his job. So he does not inspire confidence, either with the public or cabinet colleagues.

Personally gregarious, Mr Lamont is sensitive to criticism and at times awkward with colleagues. He lacks the essential political attributes of, say, Kenneth Baker, of behaving as if everything will turn out for the best. At the defence ministry during the Westland crisis, no one thanked him when he correctly forecast the difficulties ahead for Michael Heseltine and Leon Brittan.

Mr Lamont has never looked at ease in his 15 months as Chancellor. Treasury officials believe he lacks the political weight of his predecessors. Although he may have exceeded his ambitions, he has every reason to look miserable, for he became Chancellor at the worst possible time. Thanks largely to earlier decisions, he may have the unique distinction of only ever presiding over a contracting economy. He is also now having to say things which he knows conflict with the Thatcherite orthodoxy of the 1980s.

His Budget speech next Tuesday will be designed to launch the election, and will be as much a product of the politicians at 10 Downing Street as of the economists at Number 11. But whatever his inner feelings and the chilly spectre of Margaret Thatcher

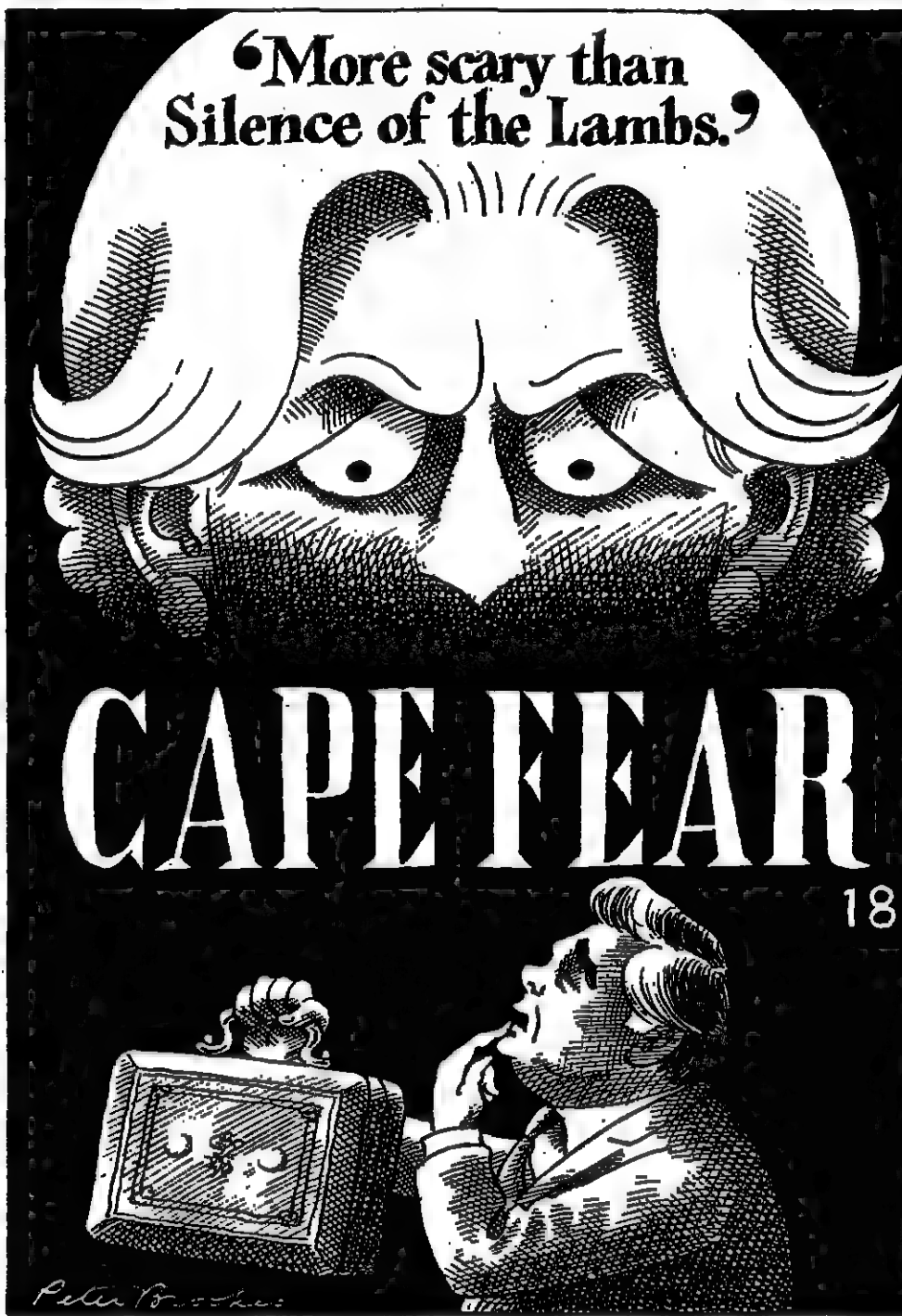
over his shoulder, Mr Lamont will be offering a selective view. A candid account would admit that the government underestimated the strength of both the late 1980s boom and the early 1990s recession. John Major's push, as Chancellor, for entry into the exchange-rate mechanism was correct on a long-term view, but the short-term timing was unfortunate, with the British economy out of line with Germany and an election near. As Chancellor, Mr Lamont has suffered from his officials' misjudgment of the timing of recovery.

But — a candid Mr Lamont might continue — the recession has not been all bad news. For the vast majority of people still in work and not afraid of losing their jobs or homes, living standards have continued to rise steadily, by about 3 to 4 per cent a year. Mr Lamont would be jeered in the Commons if he said "most of you have never had it so good", but it is true. Equally, he can hardly admit that times are not going to be as favourable in future. Wage rises are becoming smaller, so the growth of real incomes may slow.

Rising unemployment and voters' worries about public services have forced the government to relax fiscal policy. The more that ministers protest their consistency over public borrowing, the less plausible their claims look. In an interview this week, Mr Major said you could

count on the fingers of one hand "the number of years since Henry VII when we have not run a borrowing requirement". That is utter nonsense, as even a cursory study of pre-Keynesian public finance would show.

But it is not just the ghosts of the Tudors, Claudstones and Mrs Thatcher that haunt the budget; do not forget Sir Geoffrey Howe.



Justifying his 1981 Budget, when the tax burden was raised to limit the rise in public borrowing in face of a deep recession, Sir Geoffrey said, "It is the experience of governments around the world that if we try borrowing too much, then either interest rates, or inflation, or both, begin to soar."

Mr Lamont will doubtless argue that circumstances are different from those of 1981. Then, a tight squeeze was necessary since public borrowing had risen very sharply as a share of national income. Now, it is only two years since the public sector was repaying debt, and the relative share of debt is among the lowest in Europe. Moreover, since ERM membership means

that interest rates have to be kept up in line with German levels, the only flexibility is on the fiscal side. This may justify a rise in public borrowing in response to the recession, but ministers are trying to use that cloak to justify big increases in discretionary spending unrelated to the recession, as well as tax cuts.

Consequently, borrowing is on a strong upward trend, which will be hard to reverse once the recession is over. Borrowing may rise to near the levels of the early 1980s. No wonder Mrs Thatcher finds it hard to hide her well-justified fears. No one will believe Mr Lamont if he pretends that it will be possible to return to a balanced budget in the course of the economic cycle while also reducing income tax. Even if the aim of a balanced budget is dropped, borrowing in the next two years will probably exceed the limits in European Monetary Union guidelines.

If Mr Lamont were candid, he would say that taxpayers had better count their blessings while they can, since whoever wins the election, the next fiscal moves will be restrictive. Spending plans will have to be cut back in the autumn, and the tax burden will rise. Welcome to the austerity 1990s.

Mr Lamont knows his party duty is to sound positive and give everyone a little of what they want as well as a long term tax strategy, but he cannot appear too generous. In the last ten days, ministers have become nervous about suggestions of spiralling borrowing and large tax cuts. Instead they talk about prudence and a recession-busting budget. That is mostly hogwash, but Mr Lamont will not want to be outbid in any contest of responsibility with John Smith, a more naturally reassuring figure.

The government may be damned whatever it does. Roy Jenkins, whose cautious 1970 Budget was unfairly blamed for losing Labour the election that June, has warned that Mr Lamont is in danger of joining the list of "the great improvident Chancellors of the post-war era" (Maudling, Barber and Lawson). Lord Jenkins was uncomfortably near the mark when he said that the reaction of Mr Major and Mr Lamont to their predicament has been to screech at their opponents like "southern American, crooked TV evangelists denouncing sin".



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

I almost wrote to *The Times* on Tuesday. Over the past couple of weeks, those of you who have unaccountably found your attention wandering from this page onto the one opposite may have spotted a fitful correspondence about weather broadcasts, in which most of the fits have been brought on by the correspondents' inability to stop their own attention wandering while the forecasters laboured. In consequence, the morning listener who is, say, contemplating a picnic on South Utsira, discovers, after he has finished shaving, that he cannot remember whether or not he needs to take a scarf.

Now, up until Tuesday, I had kept out of all this: on the issue itself, I did not care one way or the other, the whole affair struck me as a private matter between the Met Office and people with more Basildon Bond than sense, but, more important, the BBC, my occasional employer, is in enough trouble as it is without having countless customers asking for the refund of their license money on the grounds that they intend going back to a nice reliable bit of seaweed. On Tuesday, however, something happened which overwhelmed both apathy and self-interest: whereupon I raised my dander, filled my pen, and grabbed my notepad.

But I did not write the letter. Because the more I thought about the two penn'orth I was going to add to the debate, the more I came to feel that it was

more than a two penn'orth. It was a major contribution. Possibly even a crux. Ten bob would not cover it.

I had been watching the BBC's *One O'Clock News*, which had drawn to its customary close with the weather forecast. The map of Britain materialised, the delightful Suzanne Charlton began waving at it, and then, behind her and over northern Scotland, the following words appeared: "Glare from the sun could cause problems."

Suzanne, though, did not expatiate upon this. Suzanne merely smiled, and vanished.

I do not know when weather forecasting began. I assume some tree-dweller noticed that something funny had happened to the fir-cones again, and, even though he did not know what two and two were, put them together; and then, soon afterwards, the isobar, anti-cyclone, occluded front and so on were invented, to enable unintelligibility to be deployed in the service of an elite who could thereby become personalities and earn a decent crust opening supermarkets.

Which spelt trouble: for once authority sprouts a household face, our relationship with it changes utterly. Over the past few years, weather-persons have become our friends, to the meteoric point where we not only listen to what Francis or Ian or Suzanne is saying, rather than what the Met Office is saying, we also hold them accountable for what is said. Thus it was that I felt to Michael Fish to apolo-

gise personally for the 1987 hurricanes of which he failed to warn us, and thus it is that, ever since, his colleagues have taken great pains to alert us to everything which might possibly happen, so that we do not run round to their place afterwards and poke them in the eye. They do so, moreover, not in the old exclusive jargon, but in simple practical terms: it's icy roads, so mind how you go, take a sun hat, bang polythene over delicate plants, secure wobbly fences, wear gumboots, keep high-sided vehicles away from pollen, all that. Applied meteorology.

And now look where we are. We have apparently reached the point where we need to be alerted to the purely speculative, just in case it means something the forecaster hasn't tumbled to yet, and we end up blaming him for it. "Glare from sun could cause problems," eh?

What kind of problems? How? For whom? Is it merely a question of ornithologists having to squint a bit in order to spot eagles, or something broader, eg. InterCity grinding to a halt due to the wrong kind of glare falling on the rails? Could it be of the 1987 débâcle, even be coded bet-hedging over the ozone colander, is there risk of structural damage to Calithness residents, eg. hair falling out, noses suddenly peeling?

And what are the Scots supposed to do about it? Well, until they hear further from Suzanne, the best advice I can offer them is to show the sun they just don't give a damn. Glare back.

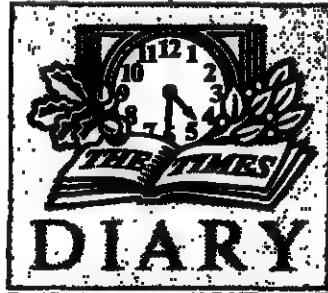
Wait and CPS

WITH the election hanging in the balance the Centre for Policy Studies, the influential think-tank which was in the vanguard of Thatcherism, has postponed the appointment of a new director.

Since John Major became prime minister, the CPS, set up by Mrs Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph in 1975, has been fraught with internal disagreement, some members accusing David Willets, the outgoing director, of siding with John Major with unseemly haste after the fall of Mrs Thatcher.

The choice of a successor to Willets, who is standing down to fight a safe Tory seat, will determine whether the CPS abandons Thatcherite ideology once and for all. Many of those tipped for the post are involved in the election, and the directors of the CPS will now wait until after polling day to ensure a wider sweep of candidates. Whether those candidates will still want the job if Labour wins the election is another matter, as the CPS will clearly then have less influence.

If the Tories win, Willets's deputy, Dr Sheila Lawlor, who specialises in education and supports the abolition of teacher-training colleges, is the clear favourite. If they lose their marginal seats, Francis Maude, the treasury minister, and Michael Fallon, the junior education minister may also be in the running. But if Labour wins, the CPS will want to promote more adventurous policies for the Conservative Opposition. It might then opt for a more radical candidate, such as Patrick Robertson, the 23-year-old former secretary of the Bruges Group, who achieved notoriety by claiming that the price of Mrs Thatcher's



er's fall was paid with the blood of thousands of innocent Kurds.

Both Major and Mrs Thatcher will be consulted over the succession, though of course they may well not see eye to eye.

Opinion pollsters have displayed remarkable solidarity after the Tory onslaught on the methods used by NOP, whose latest poll showed the Labour party ahead in key marginal constituencies. But what is a suitable collective noun for this unlikely union of rivals? A trend? A swing? A point-to-point? Robert Worcester, chairman of Mori, says: "We're definitely a sample of pollsters." Within the margin of error, Robert Waller, of Harris, disagrees: "You could call us parkers — after noisy parkers."

Dis-spelled

THE Queen has been asked to declare the witches of Salem innocent. Exactly 300 years ago, 20 people in the Massachusetts town were accused of sorcery and publicly executed. Representatives from Salem wrote to Buckingham Palace earlier this year with a request for a "symbolic declaration of innocence".

The Queen replied that the proclamation could be made only by Parliament, and suggested that

the Salem Tercentenary Committee contact the prime minister. The possibility of a pardon for the victims of the most infamous witch-hunt in history is now being considered by Downing Street.

The 20 who died were victims of hysteria, and the people of Salem feel strongly that the names of their ancestors should be cleared by the British Parliament," says Neil J. Harrington, Mayor of Salem. Both the Queen and her prime minister have been invited to the town on July 19 to attend the unveiling of a memorial statue to the three Towne sisters, two of whom were hanged, while the third went on to prove her sisters' innocence. Arthur Miller — whose play *The Crucible* used the Salem witch-hunt as a metaphor for McCarthyism — has promised to attend the ceremony.



Taxer's tuppence

WHEN the Chancellor rises from his bench next Tuesday to deliver the crucial Budget speech, clutched in one hand will be a large tumbler of malt whisky to steady his nerves. Norman Lamont will take advantage of the tradition permitting the Chancellor to drink alcohol in the Chamber while delivering a Budget speech — the

Time and ties

IT MAY come as a shock, but that embarrassing 1960s psychedelic tie at the back of the wardrobe, which you wouldn't use now to tie up the exhaust of your car, is a potential museum exhibit.

The Victoria & Albert Museum is hunting for outrageous and tasteless ties to include in their Great Tie Extravaganza in the new European Ornament Gallery. No design is too repulsive, no colours are too clashing, say the organisers.

Juliette Foy of the V&A — perhaps recalling the garish neckwear sported the erstwhile director Sir Roy Strong — warns: "To be included, a tie would have to be pretty gross, and the best will probably come from the kippie-tie brigade. We will identify the donors, but if people are too shy to admit they own such things, we'll keep them anonymous."



BATTERED BY BACKLASH

The American election campaign now swings south, with President Bush struggling to repair the substantial damage inflicted by Patrick Buchanan, his Republican challenger. He has been forced on the defensive by Mr Buchanan's strong showing in the clutch of primaries on Tuesday, where he took around a third of the vote, kept up the momentum of his high velocity campaign and fired a salvo of charges against the president's leadership that have battered Mr Bush's credibility.

So far the response has been flaccid. Instead of standing firm on his record, Mr Bush has tacked to the right in an attempt to recapture disaffected conservatives. He admits that his reneging last year on his 1988 promise not to raise taxes was a "mistake". He has encouraged rumours that he may dismiss Nicholas Brady, his loyal treasury secretary. As he begins a frenetic six-day tour of the south, he is putting on his folksy clothes and Texan drawl and telling voters that he has heard their protest but still "feels good" about the primaries. People would soon see, he predicted in Florida on Wednesday, "that I'm the person to lead the country".

Most voters do not see this. Nor do they feel good. They see around them a stubborn recession, a deadlocked budget, a spiral of crime and drug-related violence, a collapse of education, growing racial discord and a social malaise that has allowed the thought-police of political correctness to dominate the discussion with censorious attempts to compensate for all society's inequalities of race, gender, wealth and opportunity by levelling legislation. They see in Mr Buchanan a man not afraid to voice their fears and prejudices, a man who puts "America first", who appeals to aversive patriotism, who harks back to an imagined age of stability before America lost its moral bearings.

Lacking the steady experience of James Baker, his former campaign manager, or the late Lee Atwater, his pit-bull strategist, Mr Bush's team is floundering. The more he tries to answer the charges of abandoning the Reagan mantle, the more he attempts to

be all things to all voters, the more he looks like "President Noodle" in the dismissive soubriquet of *The New York Times*. Unable to articulate or project his philosophy and political beliefs, he lacks the magnetism to draw and hold the coalition of conservatives, Reagan Democrats and the radical young who formed the bedrock of his predecessor's strength. All Mr Bush's best qualities become electoral liabilities: his pragmatism is viewed as opportunism, his moderation as vacuousness, his decency as detachment.

The president has not lost his nerve. He has been here before, and triumphed over his critics in 1988 who wrote him off after a weak start to the campaign as an East Coast establishment wimp. He has a thick skin in public, and is not afraid to take savage measures to restore his popularity. In 1988 he made notorious use of the release of a black rapist in Massachusetts. This year he has already thrown to the wolves, John Frohnmayer, the hapless head of the National Endowment for the Arts, which Mr Buchanan accuses of pandering to blasphemy and homosexuality.

Mr Bush's supporters also point out that he has steadily accumulated convention delegates, already 319 compared with only 20 for Mr Buchanan. They say his strategy is to push on, state by state, until he has an unbeatable lead, by which time Mr Buchanan will be persuaded to withdraw so as not to divide the party further. This strategy will undoubtedly succeed. But in election campaigns, perceptions and expectations are the yardstick, not just vote totals. By doing so much better than expected, Mr Buchanan has made Mr Bush look vulnerable.

The president's victories have been pyrrhic. He is helped by the continued absence of a credible Democratic alternative. But he must now take stock of his campaign, concentrate on his beliefs and achievements — and not just indulge in Gulf war nostalgia — and convince the country that he is still the best man to lead it for another four years. A president elected by default would enter the White House under a terrible handicap.

MARGINAL ERROR

Ignore canvass returns, straw polls and especially what candidates say they are picking up on the doorstep. Discount private polls and view with scepticism polls carried out in marginal constituencies, such as NOP's yesterday, showing a 7% per cent swing to Labour since 1987. The best guide to the election result is that provided by opinion polls which are truly national, and only then if they reveal (as they should) their sample size, fieldwork dates and a summary of the methods they use.

The Victorian days when experienced party agents correctly guessed national elections to within a few seats are long gone. Voters fib, telling canvassers what they think they want to hear. Parties lie, telling the public that the canvassers show what they would like them to show. Candidates delude themselves, always detecting a strong tide of opinion in their favour.

Parties also lie about their private polls. The Market Research Society has made valiant efforts to control this abuse. The pollsters are to fighting it, calling a press conference at the Commons yesterday to show that they are squeaky-clean. They may or may not succeed. But there are plenty of published polls, 54 during the 1987 election, so private polls can be safely disregarded.

Private polls are less easily dismissed. The new NOP poll, for the Local Government Chronicle and the BBC's *Public Record*, is not entirely convincing. It was conducted in a single day. It mixed Tory/Labour and Tory/Conservative Democrat marginals, which may be behaving very differently from each other. These flaws, however, are not why Chris Patten, the Tory chairman, preemptively leaked it and rubbished it.

Had NOP put the Tories ahead, the methodological flaws would have passed Mr Patten by, just as he will hear no criticism of

his party's own private marginal polls, which show it in front. In theory, marginal polls use the same methods as national polls. Since they are conducted only in the seats which will decide the outcome, they ought to be more accurate indicators of its result. In practice, their performance has been patchy. Some, like MOR's for this newspaper at the last election, have been spot on. Others, like the poll that caused the Tory "Black Thursday" during the 1987 election, have thrown up inexplicably wild results.

In theory, voters in marginal seats may behave differently from voters generally. Tory strategists are claiming that this may happen this time. The Tories are well organised in the key marginals. They look for a further boost from the incumbency effect, which stops voters throwing out sitting MPs. Practice may again be different. Few psephologists think organisation matters. The incumbency effect is worth more — up to 1,500 votes — but it appears to apply only on the first occasion that a newly-elected MP defends his seat. That applies to just five Tory seats. The safest assumption is that the swing in the marginals will be the same as the national swing. For there is no need to stare into such clouded crystals when the book is there to be read. The book shows that there are regional and local peculiarities in election results, but that on aggregate, national swing is an uncannily accurate predictor of the number of seats each party will win. The book also shows that the average error per party of national poll election forecasts in the 13 post-war elections is 1.2 per cent.

Yet national polls can still get it wrong, as they mostly did in 1970 and February 1974. They more usually get it right, as they have with precision in the past four general elections. As for the politicians, they should leave pollsters to analyse public opinion — and get on with their job, which is to change it.

DYING OFF SCREEN

When Alec Guinness played eight parts in *Kind Hearts and Coronets*, one of the most delightful of the Ealing comedies, it was all part of the fun. These days it would be seen as a desperate attempt at cost-cutting. The old British film industry, never exactly healthy, is shooting what might be its final scene. Last year 12 films were made and so far this year, only one is in production. As recently as 1985, the rate was one a week.

The British have never cared much about their film industry, some even writing off cinema as a lesser art form. What subsidy it used to win came from the Eady levy on cinema tickets and through capital allowances that applied to all industries. Both have been abolished. A few million pounds a year goes straight from government to film development bodies, but it is popcorn compared with what happens abroad.

The French government spends 15 times as much as the British government on its film industry; the German government, 20 times. Such figures are often bandied by the film lobby as evidence of the mean-mindedness of government. Yesterday a conference sponsored by the Confederation of British Industry and the British Film Institute joined the chorus. But once again they failed to question the motives behind these foreign subsidies.

In other European countries, national cinema is seen as a prop to national culture. Britain evidently feels it needs no such prop: it already has superb theatre and excellent television. Moreover, the French or German resistance to being swamped by American culture is not just a reaction against a McDonald's society but masks an anxiety

about the "imperialism" of the English language. American cinema is nowhere near as alien to the British as to others in Europe: it speaks the same language.

America has the economies of scale that Britain, even Europe, can never match. It is a monolingual country of near-fanatical cinephiles. Though in its population it is slightly smaller than the EC, its cinema admissions are nearly twice as high. And while American audiences are culturally fairly homogenous, it is a rare film that can appeal from Palermo to Perth.

Britain is still good at the low-budget, quirky film. Where it used to excel was in hosting the production of foreign films. The number of British studios has fallen from 30 to five, and even they are underused. Though they are now promising new realism, unions have pushed up production costs. In spite of that, American blockbusters such as *Star Wars*, *Batman* and *Indiana Jones* were still being made here in the 1980s.

Steven Spielberg recently wanted to use Elstree to shoot *Hook*; deterred by the tax regime, he chose Hollywood instead. Since 1987, visiting actors have had 25 per cent tax withheld from their salaries. Jack Nicholson's objection to this was one reason why *Batman 2* was not shot at Pinewood. The government may well balk at directly subsidising British cinema, but it seems perverse to use the tax system actively to deter business that helps the balance of payments. This is one tax decision that Norman Lamont could usefully reverse next Tuesday. The film lobby would cheer; and a smile might even flicker briefly upon the usually inscrutable face of Sir Alec Guinness.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Minister's 'myopia' on export of art

From Sir Denis Mahon, FBA

Sir, The self-congratulatory letter (February 29) from the minister for the arts concerning art exports begins by stating that he has "seen no evidence" that sales have been accelerated as a consequence of recent statements from his department.

However, his letter (implying a profound acquaintance with the art market) bears witness to his own myopia rather than to the non-existence of a trend which most people with just a little knowledge of human nature would regard as all too predictable.

The minister purported to address this problem of art exports by referring it to a committee which is housed in and serviced by his own department; and he persists in citing its so-called recommendation in support of his stance.

That body ingenuously accepted the poisoned chalice artfully pressed upon it by the minister: a choice between unrealistic financial arrangements which failed to enable the existing, widely-supported, "Waverley" system to operate, or the adoption of arbitrarily selective, quasi-confiscatory methods in order to secure major additions for the nation's museums and galleries.

I was reassured to see that you, Sir, show the robust common sense so implausibly claimed by the minister by making it clear in your leading article, "Art of first refusal" (February 29), that the second alternative would be unacceptable in a civilised society (however "feasible", if not viable, it might be in a fascist-minded one). Nor, incidentally, can I believe for a moment that such a policy could find acceptance as that of the party to which the minister belongs.

If the cost of retention in this country were tantamount to legalised theft (to borrow Lord Perth's phrase, in a recent letter to *Country Life*) I must beg to be "included out".

Yours faithfully,
DENIS MAHON,
33 Cadogan Square, SW1.
March 1.

From Mr Clive Aslet

Sir, The problem with lists is their tendency to multiply. Mr Renton may believe that his mooted list of non-exportable works of art would "be highly selective and restricted to really outstanding heritage items", but there can be no guarantee that, once introduced, it would stop there.

Twylford Down route

From the Director of the British Road Federation Ltd.

Sir, Your leader, "A cutting too far" (March 2) and the letter from Professor Martin Biddle and his distinguished co-signatories (February 29) both argue for the M3 at Twylford Down to be put in tunnel.

The arguments are neither as narrow nor as simple as you or your correspondents would have us believe. The conclusions of two public enquiries lasting a total of 108 days filled 132 pages and covered a wide range of issues.

In addition to those like your leader-writer, striding the chalk downs feeling awed and humble, the public enquiries paid attention to those whose quality of life will be affected more directly and more permanently.

Nor did the enquiries ignore the impact on sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs), areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONBs) or the scheduled ancient monuments. It is undeniable that the road will have an impact on two SSSIs (there are more than a hundred in Hampshire), but it is certainly not true that they will be

destroyed. Equally, a visit to the Chilterns will readily demonstrate the minimal visual impact a motorway (M40) need have through a chalk down.

In the end the second public enquiry concluded that all options — including a tunnel — would have a major environmental impact and that

on the basis of evidence presented at these enquiries, the environmental superiority of a major tunnel alternative is outweighed by the combined effects of substantially higher capital costs and worse economic performance, a much delayed opening date, the implications of adverse traffic distribution on Winchester and St Cross, the provision of large sites for soil disposal, and disruption to BR, which by comparison with the department's proposals are not justified.

All change involves a balancing of benefit and disbenefit. More important in economic and environmental terms than the extra cost is the further delay to a project which is long overdue.

Yours faithfully,
PETER J. WITT, Director,
The British Road Federation Ltd.,
Pillar House,
194-202 Old Kent Road, SE1.
March 3.

giving 30 million lire in 1990 and 50 million in 1991 — but this year their budget for culture has evidently been halved and there is nothing.

Don Aldo Marangoni, the priest responsible for liaison between the Curia and the local authorities, as well as the voluntary international funds such as our own, is due to meet the cultural councillor of the city on April 2. If the answer is still zero visitors may indeed be limited to early morning and late afternoon when churches are open for the usual services. But this should not discourage them!

Yours sincerely,
FRANCES CLARKE
(Vice-Chairman),
The Venice in Peril Fund,
8 St James's Place, SW1.
March 3.

Venetian churches

From Lady Clarke

Sir, Although thefts from Venetian churches have happily declined, largely due to the insistence by the Superintendent of Arts on the need for paid custodians has not. There are many more tourists, as Lord Norwich says (article, February 29) seeking out the cultural heritage of the city, 80 per cent of which is to be found in parish or vicarial churches whose congregations have dwindled and are unable to bear the whole financial burden of paying custodians and minor repairs.

In the past two years the municipality has responded to the appeal by the college of priests for a contribution towards these expenses for the months for April to October,

Academic skills

From Sir Graham Hills, FRSE

Sir, I found the letters from Geoffrey Alderman and Bernard Harrison (February 28) deeply depressing. It seems that my academic colleagues have learned little from the last 15 years. Nothing so damages the morale in universities as whingeing and nothing impresses government less. There is no point in talking down the universities' prospects in this way, especially whilst the new universities-to-be uncompromisingly seize every opportunity presented to them.

British universities do not have to behave like supplicants and constantly to plead with governments for sustenance. Happily they have a major part to play in Britain's biggest boom industry, namely higher education. They need to be

aware of the value of their vital contribution to it and to behave accordingly.

It is absurd and not very intelligent to complain about underfunding when year by year almost all universities are taking in more and more students at the financial margin. Even the dimmest amongst us see that filling up with only partially-funded students is incompatible with protestation of underfunding.

The way out of this miserable state of affairs is to assess the true costs of tuition and to recover those costs out of economic student fees. There will be no end to the hand-wringing until the true costs of undergraduate education are brought into the open.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Cures for the doctor's dilemma

From the Chairman of the Conference of Medical Royal Colleges and their Faculties in the UK

Sir, Even if your leader, "The doctor's dilemma" (March 2) had been written 40 years ago, it would have been regarded as antiquated. Its description of medical education as "a mixture of rote learning and ritual humiliation" and that "facts alone are wanted" bears no relation to the advances in medical education, such as the successful attempts at integrated or problem-orientated teaching, the importance of ethical issues, the development of communications skills or the continued revisions of the examination system. The interim report of the GMC, *Undergraduate Medical Education: the Need for Change*, is further evidence of widespread support for radical revision.

The Royal Colleges, together with the specialist associations, continue to strive for improvements in general professional and higher specialist training programmes which are already recognised as some of the most comprehensive in Europe. The Royal Colleges are determined to reduce training time where possible, and to support those in training — and they recognise that much more still needs to be done.

Their commitment to reduce junior doctors' hours without compromising training, their active support for medical audit and better information on costs of health care, as well as participation in management of the new NHS and their enthusiasm to contribute in Europe are all matters of fact.

You promote alternative medicine: this must pass the test that any medicine must pass — that is, to be shown to be effective through properly controlled evaluation. You also say that those in hospital practice "look down" on general practitioners: in fact the partnership of mutual respect is flourishing, as witnessed by their combined work in the Conference of Medical Royal Colleges — as well as in day-to-day practice.

There is no room for complacency and there is still much to do. Doctors in general and the Royal Colleges in particular have a major role to play in a world of rapid-changing technology, increasing patient demands and limited resources. In the end it is the mutual and equal partnership between doctors and their patients which counts, and this commitment will not change.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET TURNER-
WARWICK,
Royal College of Physicians,
11 St Andrew's Place,
Regent's Park, NW1.
March 4.

From Mr Stuart L. Stanton

Sir, Your editorial delivers a series of stab wounds but fails to lance the abscess of discontent. No mention is made of conflicting signals from the government — to deliver better patient care, reduce waiting lists and become more cost effective. We see more and more administrators being appointed with less money being

School inspections

From Mr Peter Dawson

Sir, As the present general secretary of the Professional Association of Teachers, may I clarify my personal views on the provisions in the Education (Schools) Bill which relate to inspection of schools (report, March 4). I believe that the secretary of state's intentions are to be applauded.

Anyone who thinks that present arrangements are satisfactory should read carefully the sections on school behaviour in the latest report of the senior chief inspector of schools. This states that, while there are serious problems in some primary schools, pupils in secondary schools are generally well behaved, polite, responsible, punctual and well motivated.

When asked by me to explain his disregard of all the disciplinary problems facing secondary school teachers, the senior chief inspector wrote back, a fortnight ago, to say that his inspectors found none. It is obvious that Her Majesty's Inspectors are out of touch, and that there is an urgent need to reconsider their methodology.

Yours faithfully,
PETER DAWSON
(General Secretary),
Professional Association of Teachers,
2 St James' Court,
Friar Gate, Derby.
March 4.

It would then be up to the universities to charge matching fees to meet these costs. At the same time they would invite, where necessary, all but the poorest of students or parents to top up the government's contribution to the fee — which will always be large but inadequate — by, say, 10 per cent of the total fee.

It is likely that when students, staff, parents and employers realise the true cost of higher education, then a better deal can be done with government. The freedom won by the universities and colleges would enable them once again to stand on their own feet and break the habit of blaming everyone else for their plight.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM HILLS,
Sunside of Threepwood,
Lough Threepwood,
Beith, Ayrshire.

available for health care so that we have operating lists which are idle and intensive care beds which cannot be staffed.

Nothing was mentioned about the paucity of funds for research, which is fundamental to improve clinical practice and is an essential part of postgraduate training.

You cite an indifference to alternative medicine as one of our faults, but we have been brought up to look for objective scientific evidence of success in our conventional therapies. This same objective scrutiny is frequently lacking with alternative medicine.

Many of the NHS reforms are sensible and overdue. Doctors are becoming increasingly irritated at having to make even more cost savings when we see insufficient funds being directed towards the health service and ourselves made political scapegoats.

Medicine is still a vocation but it has to be satisfying like any career. It is now extremely difficult to try and combine the central interests of the clinical care of the patient and research, and the increasing demands on our time for administration and management.

Yours faithfully,
STUART L. STANTON
(Consultant gynaecologist and
gynaecology manager),
St George's Hospital
Medical School,
Lanesborough Wing,
Cranmer Terrace, SW17.
March 3.

From Dr Ronald Livingston

Sir, I sympathise with any disillusioned doctor facing the current dilemma, hemmed in with restrictions as it is.

Within a very short time of experimenting with homeopathy nearly 36 years ago, I have never looked back in terms of professional gratification at the long-term results. I have been privileged to achieve in so many chronic cases generally regarded as incurable.

I can well remember how rapidly my outlook on life in general and medicine in particular became vastly widened and deepened by this comprehensive, rational, gently-acting and safe therapy. Not its least attractive feature is its cost effectiveness.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD LIVINGSTON,
Forstye Folly, 20 Ravine Road,
Canford Cliffs, Poole, Dorset.
March 3.

From Mr Christopher M. McGeeoch
Sir, Your leader writer wrote over the wrestling by GPs of minor surgery from the hands of surgeons in hospitals. Any reader who is contemplating such treatment might like to consider the adage, "there is no such thing as minor surgery, just minor surgeons".

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER M. MCGEOCH
(Consultant orthopaedic surgeon),
39 Berwick Road,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
March 3.

Excess baggage

From Dr A. G. Towers

Sir, I have just received two monthly magazines of general interest. In addition to the usual advertisement features there were 15 pamphlets, four for assorted insurance plans and the rest for a friendly society, a money-lender, garden/home care, beds for backache sufferers, hearing aids and postcard sets.

I also received two free so-called newspapers. Surely it is time to curb such a waste of national resources.

Yours sincerely,
A. G. TOWERS,
16 Milne Court,
Bedlington, Northumberland.

Floral insight

From Mr Malcolm Rogers

Sir, I would have thought that one of the most popular crops in the Chelsea Psychic Garden (letters, February 25, 29) would be flowers returned from the spiritual state — reincarnations.

Yours sincerely,
MALCOLM ROGERS,
The Robey,
240 Seven Sisters Road, N4.

Always behind

From Mr B. R. Barnfield

Sir, How depressing to read the confession by the Head Vale of the Savoy (letter, March 4) that that once splendid establishment now admits men (one can hardly say gentlemen) who wear machine-stitched suits. Not only does it admit them; it clearly permits them to take rooms. How ignominious for the valet department to be obliged to repair the consequences of their patrons' parsimony.

Yours faithfully,
B. R. BARNFIELD,
12a Westbourne Crescent, W2.

From Mr George Carbutt

Sir, I would like to remind Dr Glaister (letter, February 28) that only potatoes wear jackets. Gentlemen wear coats.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE CARBUTT,
33 Greyhound Road, W6.

Ford just holds off Vauxhall challenge

By Ross TIERMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

FORD retained its 15-year leadership of the British car market by a whisker last month after a last-minute surge in the number of cars registered by its dealers.

Vauxhall sold 21,583 cars during February, only 149 fewer than Ford, for a 19.73 per cent share of sales, against Ford's 19.86 per cent. "Vauxhall was leading right until the last few days of February, when additional Ford sales put them ahead on the last day," a Vauxhall spokesman said.

The outcome was a surprise to many within the car industry, who had expected Vauxhall to take the lead because of the success of its new models in the most difficult market: Britain's carmakers have seen for many years.

Vauxhall's resurgence is nonetheless a remarkable achievement. Only a year ago, Ford was clear market leader, with a 25.08 per cent market share against Vauxhall's 17.43 per cent. Rover was challenging for second place with 16.29 per cent of the market.

Since then, Ford of Britain has slumped into losses and Ian McAllister, the company's chairman, has ordered his executives to concentrate on making a profit rather than defending market share.

The same policy has been pursued even more aggressively at Rover. The British Aerospace subsidiary saw sales during February decline to 15,898 cars, a 14.53 per cent market share.

Britain's most popular car during February was the Vauxhall Cavalier, which accounted for more than one in every 12 sold. Second place went to the Ford Escort, which was followed by the Vauxhall Astra, the Ford Sierra and the Rover 200.

Total February sales, at 109,414, were down 12 per cent on the same month last year. The February total was the lowest since 1976.

Imported cars accounted for 54 per cent of the total during February, compared with 51.58 per cent during the same month a year ago.

Many would-be buyers are believed to be holding back in the hope that Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, will abolish car tax in his budget on Tuesday. The industry has pleaded loudly for measures to help end its slump.



Environmentally secure: ecology has come to the rescue of about 50 cockroaches and other lizards apprehended by Customs and Excise as illegal immigrants. Instead of being destroyed, they were handed over yesterday to the Royal Botanic

Gardens, Kew, where they have been enlisted to help keep the local cockroach population under control (John Young writes). The reptiles belong to three species, *Acanthosaurus Armoia*, a native of the south-east Asian rain forests; and

Tarentola Mauritanica and *Tropidolates*, from North Africa and the Mediterranean. They are presumed to have been destined for pet shops, although their import has to be licensed. Greg Redwood, Kew's special projects officer, said

yesterday that the use of pesticides in glasshouses open to the public had been largely discontinued. But suitable predators for cockroaches had remained a problem: the lizards, nocturnal creatures like the cockroaches, could be the ideal answer.

Australians beaten by brilliance of Botham

Continued from page 1

picture of bewilderment. "If I could explain it, I would fix it," he snapped at an unwelcome question. "England have taken a leaf out of our book, with more thorough preparation... but the way we are playing at the moment, you wouldn't know it."

To cap it from the poms was more than some fair-dinkum Aussie can bear. Border seemed anxious not to dwell on the subject of Botham, but it mattered not. Just down the corridor, the great man was holding court himself, selecting a bottle of chardonnay from the team's celebration ice bucket before launching into the sort of patter he has doubtless polished during his stint on the pantomime boards in Bournemouth at Christmas.

How did he take his wickets? "A.B. [Border] was unlucky — he got a good ball. The rest kept hitting it to my

field." How did he explain his return to batting form? "I managed to get the strike this time. Goochie [England's captain, Graham Gooch] is a very good counter."

How does he always rise to the big occasion? "You have to save it up when you get into my physical condition. There is not much left in the tank. But Micky Stewart [England's manager] has been looking after me at net sessions. I do a warm-up stroll and then the physio, Laurie Brown, patches me up."

More seriously, Botham insisted: "This is a good England team which works as a team. And they don't even talk about losing." Which, of course, is just as well for Botham. He has put his money on England to win the World Cup at the generous odds of eight-to-one.

Viv Richards, page 30
England's victory, page 32

Payers rebel on poll tax surcharges

Continued from page 1

have no effect on their vote. Asked who they blamed for high poll-tax bills, 63 per cent said the government and only 22 per cent named local authorities. More than half recognised that non-payment harmed local services.

In spite of the unpopularity of the community charge, only a fifth wanted to see the complete abolition of local taxation. More than half favoured the council tax, the government's planned replacement for the poll tax.

A similar proportion supported Labour's fair rates proposals, suggesting that the two taxes are almost indistinguishable in the public mind. Only a third supported Liberal Democrat plans for a local income tax.

Poll leak, page 2
£4 billion giveaway, page 7

Mushroom clouds are blamed for deaths

Continued from page 1

men also committed suicide. Since then a whole flock near the border of the site has died and orchards and vineyards have become barren," Mr Akhyevyev said.

Nearly 50,000 Kazakhs live in a radius of 96 miles of Sarai but the government of President Nazarbayev has refused public appeals to investigate the problem which has been aired in the local press. Police have broken up meetings to collect signatures for a petition and have arrested Mr Akhyevyev four times in the past 18 months. When he went on a hunger strike in 1991 the police accused him of being insane and he was taken before a medical panel but later released.

Many Kazakh nationalists believe Moscow's treatment of Kazakhstan has in the past amounted to an "orchestrated genocide". Even moder-

ates believe that Moscow chose Kazakhstan to test its rockets, biological and chemical weapons because it could ignore the well-being of the Kazakh minority with impunity. "They could have chosen a real desert to test their weapons. It was done on purpose," the Kazakh poet Suleymenov, who leads the "Semipalatinsk-Nevada movement", says.

President Nazarbayev has taken a tough stand against the small nationalist parties which he says exploit the issue. The leaders of one party, Akhmet, were arrested last December after a fracas at a mosque in Alma Ata. The party is pro-Islamic and would like to see the Russians, 40 per cent of the population, and particularly the Soviet army, go home. Three men are on trial on March 16 on charges of insulting the honour and dignity of the president.

Political sketch

Feathers, and babies, fly

A Tory minister yesterday told the Commons that if Labour were elected there would be no food.

After this shock, MPs were involved in another exchange of flying bodies. They pretended to discuss health. More dead babies and cancer victims were hurled across the floor in a macabre fusillade. In a familiar ritual, Neil Kinnock quoted a doctor and John Major quoted another doctor.

That makes two. There are about 25,000 doctors in this country. Is there time for the remaining 24,998 to express a view? Mr Major's doctor seems to argue that fewer patients are dying than used to. Mr Kinnock's doctor argues that if more money were spent on health, even fewer would die. These views are not inconsistent, but I hate to spoil a good scrap.

But can I urge anyone unblest enough to fall sick next week, to think very hard before dying? You may become a Commons issue, your demise worth half a point in the opinion polls. Perhaps critical cases could complete a form, specifying which party they would prefer to use their corpse.

Anyway, we may soon all starve. That's what agriculture minister John Gummer was trying to say when, to knotted brows, he told MPs that Labour would "spend money they haven't got and won't get and spend it three times on people who will receive no benefit". This was rather Jesuitical and justified Mr Gummer's reputation as an intellect.

Junior minister David Maclean was more straightforward. The longer things went on, he said, "the more convinced I become that if the Opposition win the election we would have no food to eat". The news startled even his own side. It is not easy to turn agriculture questions into an election battleground, but MPs on both sides rose gamely to the challenge yesterday. Question 1, from Simon Burns (C, Chesham), about animal welfare, praised a Tory crusade to rescue the ponies of Europe from being eaten.

A Tory victory, we sensed, would be greeted by a whiny relief from Calais to Corsica. Replying, Mr Gummer threw in pigs, too. No one had done more for pig "stalls and tethering" than the Conservatives. Down on old Maclean's

farm, a neigh, neigh here was joined by an oink, oink, there, from blue boars and Tory sows.

Here a cluck, there a cluck, too, it seemed. The minister spluttered that "coloured lenses for chickens" were an "outrageous" idea. To Michael Lord (C, Suffolk Central), who feared EC regulations with "a crippling effect on Sovereign Chicken", old Maclean suggested that, under the Conservatives, British chickens deserved "a level playing field".

"Everywhere a cluck, cluck," we thought, as the image of crippled Sovereign chickens in coloured lenses playing on old Maclean's level field flashed through our minds.

And on that farm he had a turkey. "Knowing my hon friend's concern for birds," said Billericay's Teresa Gorman (a famous supporter of the Essex chicken) "will he deal with the latest scare in our beautiful turkey industry?" This concerned an unpromisingly alleged disease of turkeys, which Mrs Gorman denounced as "a load of gobbledegoose". Oh dear. A gobble, gobble, here, it seems, down on old Maclean's farm.

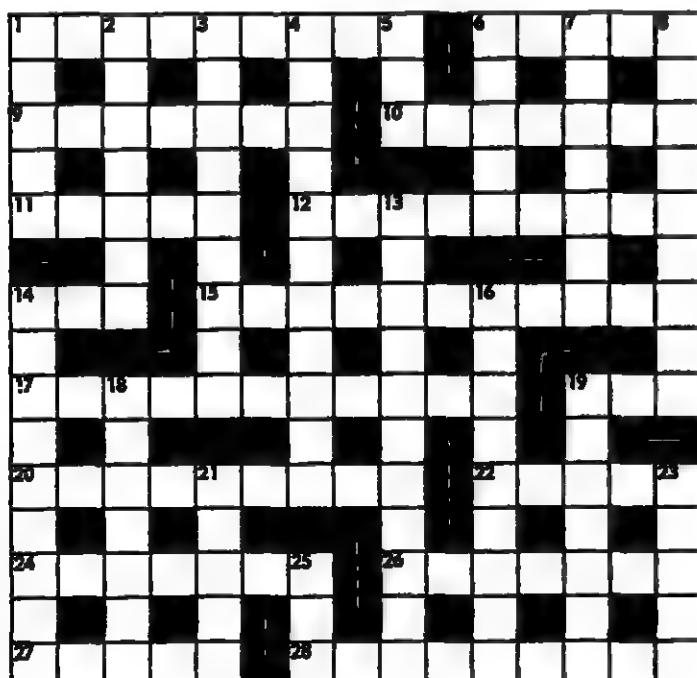
And a moo, moo there. Ian Taylor (C, Essex) leapt to his feet: "I have a very large number of cows munching in the green pastures of my own constituency," he told the House. The rest was inaudible, but he gathered that if the minister would sort out the milk marketing scheme, Essex cows would moo in the Tory cause. This, apparently, despite what minister David Curry called a "great new EC machine, spitting out red tape all over the countryside". Let us hope the "spitting" chickens do not trip on it. The tethered pigs are presumably safe in their stalls and the ponies can take care of themselves.

But where do the potatoes fit in? From Labour's Harry Cohen, came an anguished cry from the potato-eaters of Leyton. The "production of early potatoes" had fallen, he complained. A majority of only 4,641 was bringing out the agrarian streak in Mr Cohen's nature. There was "not a wide enough diversity of potatoes". Is this issue big on the streets of Leyton? "And this government has had its chips?"

Be-aye ee-aye oh.

MATTHEW PARRIS

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,859



A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?
By Philip Howard

GRAYWALKER
A. An order of monks
B. Pretending to be ill
C. A false friend

EPICURUS
A. A philosopher of the Old Testament
B. A major crime
C. Choosing between two evils

PISTIC
A. Drunk
B. Fero, granule
C. Adjective

CABOTIN
A. A wooden shaper
B. A charcoal-burner
C. A Frenchman

Answers on page 14

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National	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Angles	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

- ACROSS**
- Cheap floor (5-4).
 - For a start, put in a cylinder backwards (5).
 - Shorten a spanner (7).
 - Fibre mostly found in the plant (7).
 - Boy meets a girl on the heath (5).
 - The Lorelei, for instance — one working for a while with her hair (9).
 - Campaign against the burning of leaf or tree (3).
 - Writers remembered here with no respect or order? (5,6).
 - Old kinswoman makes a spind-did fairy queen (1,1).
 - One period of the game produces a goal (3).
 - Innocent Church wafted about in ignorance (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,858

GUARDHOUSE ORAL
KIDNAPERS
MANKMAN
A D U R I F E D
NESTORIAN ARMO
H N C A N U
I L I A D H E R E T I C A L
N I P W T H E
D I S T E M P E R E P A C T
O D L O R N
L U R I D A Q U A R E L L E
E O I T N I O G
N O M I N E D E B T E R
C A G A O U L T Y E
E T H A S U P P L E M E N T

- DOWN**
- Honour — artless, heartless honour (5).
 - It's terrifying; turning up, therefore, is hard (7).
 - Went to bed without rising and became a classic (9).
 - Delightful with record high jump (4,3,4).
 - Fish — one that's caught (3).
 - Tenor takes a break after high note (5).
 - Harsh name for a bird (7).
 - Laid up during walk? Yes (9).
 - Frenchman — he's vicious, corrupt and malicious (1,1).
 - South American silver (9).
 - Distraught lovers use us (9).
 - Crack Jack up for free (7).
 - Grow more strange in general (7).
 - Pig's home acquired (5).
 - Shout "Doctor" (5).
 - It's not unknown for female to become male (3).

Concise Crossword, page 9
Life & Times section

In WPA, salus populi
suprema est lex.
O felices qui protecti
in sanitatem a WPA sunt.

Pro Cetero Habe Per
WPA
Health Insurance
70 Redcliffe Street, Bristol BS1 6LS.
Tel: 0272 234634. Fax: 0272 225677.

Northern Ireland and Scotland will have a cloudy start followed by rain in the afternoon. Most of England and Wales will remain dry with bright or sunny intervals but more general rain will reach northern counties towards midnight. Many parts will be windy and over western Scotland and northern England winds will reach gale force. Outlook: cloudy over England and Wales; brighter weather spreading into Scotland and Northern Ireland.

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Profits rise after restatement

Dillons book price squeeze helps Pentos

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

TERRY Maher, chairman of Pentos, the retail and office furniture group that owns the Dillons bookshop chain, has hailed his autumn promotion, designed to break the back of the net book agreement, as a success.

Dillons sales rose 8 per cent in December, against a 1 per cent increase for booksellers as a whole.

Mr Maher, who is calling on other publishers to follow the lead given by Reed and publish popular titles outside of the net book agreement, said it was fear of a backlash from retailers opposed to the abolition of the agreement that had stopped other publishers from publishing non-net.

He added: "We know that last year, both Harper Collins and Random Century both said they were going to publish some titles outside the NBA and then later changed their minds."

When asked why other retailers, such as Waterstone's, which competed aggressively

on price, had not experienced the same results, Mr Maher said those groups had not advertised their promotions effectively. "We advertised the promotion at Dillons but not at our other bookstores... where we ran the same promotion. In Dillons, same shop sales were up 6.4 per cent in the final quarter and in the non-Dillons shops they were down 2 per cent."

Pentos group pre-tax profits rose 7 per cent to £15.2 million last year after 1990's results were restated to allow for a new accounting policy on reverse premiums. Stripping out the change in accounting policy, pre-tax profits were almost static.

Total sales rose 18 per cent to £215 million and earnings fell 2 per cent to 9.1p a share. The final dividend is 2.05p, making 2.75p for the year, up 10 per cent.

Specialist retailing boosted sales 25 per cent to £185.1 million and profits 21 per cent to £15.9 million. Dillons total sales rose 37 per cent

and same shop sales 5.5 per cent. Same shop sales at Athena rose 2 per cent, while those at Ryman's were static. Profits at the office furniture division fell 33 per cent to £3.7 million on sales down 10 per cent to £30.3 million.

Mr Maher was pleased with the group's acquisition of Wilding, the office equipment group. The open plan division has been transferred to Pentos's office furniture division, bringing to the group an additional £6 million of turnover, while 64 retail outlets with sales of £20 million have been incorporated into Ryman's.

The direct sales and service division was sold to management, with the net effect being an extra £2 million cash inflow.

Mr Maher said business had picked up in the third quarter of last year and the first nine weeks of this year had been slightly better than last year's.

Shares in Pentos rose 1p to 138p yesterday.



Best selling trio: Plácido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti and José Carreras

PolyGram records 25% income rise

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

PolyGram, the Dutch music company 80 per cent owned by Philips, reported a 24.8 per cent rise in net income to 446 million guilders (£138 million) during 1991, helped by the continued strength of the recording business.

PolyGram's best-selling artists last year included Bryan Adams, Dire Straits, Sting and the Scorpions. The best-selling classical recordings

were Carreras, Domingo, Pavarotti — *In Concert*, which has sold 7 million copies since its release, and the complete Mozart edition, which has sold 8 million.

Alain Levy, PolyGram's president, said the results "bear witness to the relative resilience of recorded music in a time of recession". The results mark the seventh consecutive year of growth at

PolyGram, whose share of the market rose from 17.5 per cent to 18.5 per cent last year, when it expanded heavily, buying the distribution rights for Motown Records and 30 per cent of Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Holdings. Net sales went up by 20.5 per cent to £1.633 billion. The dividend rose from £1.05 to £1.06 per share.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

George Walker called to court by consultant

A FIRM of property consultants has issued a subpoena requiring George Walker, the deposed chairman of Brent Walker, to appear as a witness in a High Court action being brought against the leisure group next week.

Aldenbrook, a purposely created shell company, is claiming about £150,000 in unpaid fees and interest from Brent Walker in a dispute that dates back to 1988, when Mr Walker was head of the leisure group.

James Lewis and Brian Morley, who control Aldenbrook, claim their firm affected an introduction between Brent Walker and Shepherd Neame, the brewing group, which led to Shepherd Neame buying eight pubs from Brent Walker. The current management of Brent Walker denies that it was Aldenbrook's introduction that resulted in the sale. Mr Lewis and Mr Morley believe Mr Walker can confirm they were acting on his instructions.

Renishaw drops 22%

A FALL in sales, high spending on research and development, and investment led to a 22 per cent drop in interim pre-tax profits to £4.2 million at Renishaw, the scientific instruments manufacturer. Turnover for the six months to end-December fell 4 per cent to £21.3 million. The company said demand from most leading customers had dropped more than 30 per cent. There was little sign of an upturn in its important markets. The interim dividend is 2.5p (2p). Earnings per share were 6.1p (7.6p).

Enterprise at £1.7m

ENTERPRISE Computer Holdings, formerly Systems Reliability, reports pre-tax profits of £1.73 million for the six months to end-December (£2.52 million). The results are the second interim figures after the computer services group's change of year-end to end-March. The results compare with a £4.78 million loss in the first half of 1991. Earnings were 3.59p per share (1.15p). There is a second interim dividend of 1p (1.5p). Enterprise expects to pay a further dividend at the end of the 15-month period. The shares rose 2p to 25 1/2p.

Readymix record slips

PRE-TAX profits at Readymix, the Irish concrete and building materials group, were £13.6 million (£3.34 million) last year, compared with the record £14.8 million in 1990. The company said all operating units had traded profitably. It invested £13.6 million on capital improvements and nearly half was spent on Concrete Pipes and Ballykilmurray Farms, its most recent acquisitions. A final dividend of 12.2p (11.95p) is being paid to give a 12.75p total (12.5p).

Crossing to Rubicon

COURTNEY Pope, a troubled shopping and engineering group, is changing its name to Rubicon and asking shareholders for £5.1 million through an eight-for-seventeen rights issue. A further 1.18 million shares will be issued to banks in settlement of £1 million of liabilities. George Duncan, the recently appointed chairman, heads a new management team. The group lost £8.9 million in its last financial year but made £963,000 pre-tax in the six months to November 30. There is again no interim dividend.

Sema shows 8.5% fall

SEMA, the Anglo-French computing services group, suffered an 8.5 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £14 million in 1991 and gave warning that there were few signs of a market upturn. The results would have been worse had it not been for a restructuring programme begun in 1990. Turnover was 10 per cent better at £412.5 million. Earnings per share were up from 10.5p to 11p because of lower tax and minority interests charges. Dividend per share was raised from 2.5p to 2.6p.

Macy's top job fight

PRESSURE is growing for a management shake-up at Macy's, now under the protection of the bankruptcy court. Bondholders want Edward Finkelstein, aged 66, and chairman and chief executive, to stand aside. His successor, Myron Ullman, currently vice-chairman, has already signed a \$800,000 contract for the next three years — and a total of \$2.4 million if he fails to get the top job. But Mr Finkelstein will not go without a fight. At a recent board meeting he pledged that he will take Macy's out of bankruptcy.

UK hotels batter Brierley

BY OUR CITY STAFF

PROFITS and earnings have plummeted at Brierley Investments Ltd, the New Zealand investment group, because of a slump in the performance of Mount Charlotte, its British hotels group.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to end-December fell 54 per cent to NZ\$140 million (£44 million), while the interim has been cut by 1 cent to 4 cents. Earnings per share slumped to 3.6 cents.

Mount Charlotte's profits fell 95 per cent to just £1.5 million due to the recession. The figures marked a recovery from the start of 1991 however, when the Gulf war brought losses. Trevor Beyer, a BIL director, said that the group planned to cut its stake in Mount Charlotte from 70 per cent to 51 per cent.

In December, BIL sold its other main British operating subsidiary, Tozer Kemsley & Milbourn, to Inchcape for £394 million. A profit of £46 million on the disposal will be included in the second half.

Two-thirds of BIL's operating profits came from its trading activities, while NZ\$108 million came from investment sales. During the year the figures at most of the group's New Zealand businesses improved.

Despite the slump, the figures are a victory for BIL, which has succeeded in cutting its net debt by more than half to NZ\$3.2 billion.

The group recently announced a joint A\$150 million (£65 million) bid for ACIL, the energy and brewing group formerly called Bond Resources, with GPG, Sir Ron Brierley's new investment vehicle.

Ofwat adjusts profits

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT

OFWAT, the water industry financial regulator, has, for the first time, published current cost accounts for the ten privatised water and sewerage companies, as well as the regulated water-only suppliers. The current cost accounts reflect the impact of inflation on assets and depreciation.

They show operating profits of the privatised companies' utility subsidiaries were between 10 per cent (South West) and 59 per cent (Southern) lower than the conventional historic cost profits. Apart from Northumbrian, which shows a fall from historic profits of 13 per cent, the rest show operating profits between 17 and 32 per cent below historic figures.

Companies that have been forced to increase their spending on assets most in recent years are least affected by the current cost adjustment and vice versa.

The counterpart of the profit adjustments is that the current value of assets rises, especially for those companies whose recent investment is a relatively small proportion of their total assets. The increased value of assets shown in the current cost accounts could be used by Ian Byatt, the director general of water services, to support his case that companies could afford to borrow more to finance investments, putting off some of the final cost to customers.

Mr Byatt said the much lower returns on capital shown in the current cost figures should not be compared directly with cost of capital in determining new price limits.



1991 RESULTS

"I am pleased to report continued growth despite the difficult economic climate in many of our markets. These results reflect the benefit of continued investment in our brands and business and the management team's ability to sustain momentum in our chosen markets."

Sales	£3,232.3m + 2.7%
Trading Profit	£362.5m + 8.6%
Pre-Tax Profit	£316.4m + 13.2%
Earnings per Share	27.73p + 9.6%
Dividend per Share	12.50p + 8.7%

We have continued to build for the future, with marketing up 5.8% and capital spend up by 9.3%. The overall Group trading margin increased in 1991 to 11.2% from 10.6%.

Reflecting the underlying growth, a final dividend of 9.30 pence (+9.4%) is proposed, giving a total dividend for the year of 12.50 pence, an increase of 8.7%."

Sir Graham Day, Chairman

Cadbury Schweppes

MANAGEMENT PROVEN IN THE MARKET PLACE

THE CONTENTS OF THIS STATEMENT, FOR WHICH THE DIRECTORS OF CADBURY SCHWEPPE'S PLC ARE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE, HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECTION 57 OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES ACT 1986 BY ARTHUR ANDERSEN, AS AN AUTHORISED PERSON

Bryant faces price freeze

By MARTIN BARROW

Bryant & May, Britain's biggest match maker, faces a two-year price freeze after a Commission ruling that the company had earned "excessive profits" because of its 78 per cent market share.

Peter Lilley, the trade and industry secretary, announced yesterday that the Office of Fair Trading will seek an undertaking from the company not to increase the price of its branded matches until 1994. Sir Gordon Borrie, director general of fair trading, will review the market to decide whether further controls are necessary.

The commission ruled that the company failed to pass on to customers the benefit of "significant cost reductions", taking advantage of its dominant market share and of excise duty on lighters, which encouraged match sales.

The report criticised provisions in agreements with major customers relating to discounts, exclusivity on sales and promotional activities, and minimum stocking requirements. These provisions were found to be against the public interest.

One commission member dissented against the findings, concluding that remedies were unnecessary. The dissenter argued that Bryant & May was reacting to competition by including certain provisions in trading agreements and that profitability had enjoyed the benefit of factors that would not recur or would have a reduced effect in future.

Regarding lighters, the commission found that price competition was greater and no adverse effects on the public interest were identified. Bryant & May is the largest supplier of disposable lighters and refillable disposable lighters.

In 1987, the commission approved the takeover of Bryant & May by Swedish Match, subject to the assurance that price increases would not exceed the rate of increases in the retail price index, a condition that has been met by Bryant & May.

David Wheeler, managing director, said the company would co-operate with the OFT in implementing the commission's recommendations but criticised the government's intervention. "We believe that the inquiry has been a waste of taxpayers' money and that the findings will have very little impact on the public interest." A box of matches cost less than one cigarette. Matches represented 2p in 1100 of consumer supermarket spending.

Bryant & May estimates that its recommended prices to retail and trade customers have not risen above the rate of the retail price index since 1987 while the trade price of cigarette lighters, also included in the commission's inquiry, remained unchanged since 1985.

Gambling and property drive down Ladbroke

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT

LOSSES on property and a 30 per cent cut in profits from betting drove Ladbroke's pre-tax profits down 29 per cent to £210 million in 1991 after charging £10 million extra interest on a low interest convertible bond under new accounting rules.

The group has written down the value of its Hilton International hotel chain by £56 million, nearly all abroad, despite raising the valuation of the Langham, its new London hotel, by £19 million above cost and development costs. Ladbroke has also made write-offs and provisions totalling £90 million. Of this, £49 million was charged against profits, including £42 million of net interest and costs of development that would previously have been capitalised. This pushed the group's property division into a £12 million loss and the development side is being run down.

Earnings fell a third to 16.1p a share but the dividend has been increased to 11.5p per share, a rise of 7.8 per cent after adjusting for the £460 million rights issue last August. Ladbroke shares gained 5p to 229p.

The Gulf war and recession hit the group's Hilton International hotel business and also, more surprisingly, its betting business. Ladbroke had built up a high-stake credit betting business to around 15 per cent of its betting turnover and this collapsed, although the retail betting shops around Britain

and in Belgium held up relatively well. Profits of the betting division, which also includes Vernons football pools, fell from £92 million to £65 million on turnover down 2 per cent to £2.25 billion.

By contrast, the group's DIY retail business, principally Texas Homecare, sailed through the recession by increasing its market share. Profits increased by a fifth to £48 million on turnover up 16 per cent to £653 million.

Hilton hotels saw turnover dip 3 per cent to £758 million and profits fall £11 million to £164 million despite £44 million profit from the sale of freeholds of two provincial hotels. The hotel business has, however, recovered from the impact of the Gulf war and increased profits in the second half of 1991.

Interest charges rose from £60 million to £92 million, but the rise pre-dates the rights issue. This reduced borrowings to 38 per cent of shareholders' funds, which rose by £370 million to £2.85 billion. Capitalised interest, net of early rentals charged against it, more than halved to £24 million and is likely to fall drastically again this year.

Cyril Stein, the chairman, said 1992 had started encouragingly. Hilton International has seen an increase in business travel and the group is still selling developments at above balance sheet values

Tempos, page 20



Encouraged: Cyril Stein thinks 1992 will be better

Provisions help push Woolwich down 20%

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

PROVISIONS for bad debts and losses from estate agencies clipped pre-tax profits 20 per cent to £136 million last year at the Woolwich, Britain's fourth largest building society.

The provisions tripled to £94 million, including £22 million of written off interest. Seventy per cent of the society's mortgage business is in southern England where the property market has been worst affected.

Donald Kirkham, group chief executive, said: "The continuing recession manifested itself in an extremely weak housing market in 1991." The number of houses in possession at the end of the year was 2,850 compared with 1,940 at the beginning of 1991.

The estate agency lost £22 million. February had, however, seen an improvement with sales up 30 per cent, Mr Kirkham said.

Lending was down from £3.6 billion to £3.1 billion and net retail receipts fell from £1.4 billion to £1.1 billion. The cost-to-income ratio for the group increased from 53.7 per cent to 59.9 per cent. Operating profits rose from £196 million to £208 million and the value of assets was up £2 billion to £20 billion.

Mr Kirkham said the Town & Country, which will vote next month on a merger with the Woolwich, lost about £43 million after making provisions of £60 million.

Surveys point to recovery in orders and spending

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

CONSUMER spending is recovering, led by the Midlands and the North, and manufacturing orders and output are starting to expand again, according to two surveys of the British economy.

However, the government's cyclical indicators, published yesterday, are confusing. The January data showed the coincident indicator, which is supposed to move in line with the economy, pointing up for the first time in 19 months, while other indicators signalled downturn.

Emulating the closely watched American survey of purchasing managers, the Institute of Purchasing and Supply issued a report on business in Britain. It is based on responses from executives responsible for spending £250 billion each year. In contrast to other recent surveys, this one shows manufacturers reporting significant growth in orders and output. The key purchasing managers' index, based on a weighted average of several indices, rose to 50.8 per cent in February from 47.2 per cent in January.

Last month's figure was the highest since September. A reading above 50 per cent indicates general expansion. The new orders index rose to 56.7 per cent from 49.3 per cent in January; the output index climbed to 53.6 per cent from 49.6 per cent. Consumer spending is set to recover slowly, with retail sales rising 2.3 per cent this year, according to a report from BSL Business Strategies. It says that after a 1.9 per cent fall in consumer spending in 1991, the largest on record, recovery is under way, although it will be sluggish and fragile.

BSL predicts a 1.1 per cent rise in consumer spending this year, driven by higher real disposable income. This compares with the 2.5 per cent growth the Treasury forecast in its November autumn statement.

Peter Dixon, senior economist at BSL, said high street spending should rise faster than overall consumer spending. Lower expenditure on fuel and power is forecast this year after high spending on these items in the cold winter of 1991. The fastest-rising component of spending is expected to be leisure and other services; consumer durables, usually bought on credit, will take longer to pick up.

Government figures showed the longer leading indicator, which identifies turning points in activity about ten months in advance, falling 0.6 per cent in January. The shorter leading indicator, which looks four months ahead, dropped 0.1 per cent, reflecting a fall in share prices. Ian Harnett, chief economist at Strauss Turnbull, described the data as "confusing to negative".

Raine bids for fellow builder

By MARTIN BARROW

RAINE Industries, the housebuilder and contractor, has made a £30.8 million agreed bid for Walter Lawrence, a fellow housebuilder.

Raine is offering one new ordinary share for every two Walter Lawrence shares. Convertible preference shareholders are being offered 100p a share in cash, with a share alternative.

The ordinary offer initially valued each Walter Lawrence share at 57.5p, a premium of 151 per cent over Wednesday's closing price of 23p. But with Raine shares falling 15p to 108p the closing terms valued the shares at just over 54p.

The offer has been recommended by the Walter Lawrence board, and 17.9 per cent shareholder Newarhill has stated its intention to accept the bid in the absence of a higher offer.

Walter Lawrence, whose shares have fallen from a 12-month high of 64p, estimated that pre-tax profits for 1991 fell from £3.6 million to £500,000 after an exceptional provision of £1 million against residential developments. The company has

debts of £72.3 million. Raine also announced a 2-for-1 rights issue of new shares at 95p each, raising £33.5 million.

Although the proceeds would be used to reduce borrowings associated with Walter Lawrence, the rights issue is not conditional upon completion of the takeover bid. Raine said the funds would instead be used to strengthen its own balance sheet.

Raine has promised to maintain dividend payments for the current year, pledging to pay a 4p final, although profits look certain to fall.

Interim profits, announced yesterday, fell from £8.2 million before tax to £5.8 million and earnings from 4p a share to 3p.

The company said that housebuilding and interior contracting suffered lower margins in a highly competitive trading environment.

However, Hall & Tawse, its building contracting subsidiary, benefited from the quality of contracts carried forward from the previous year.

Tempos, page 20

Brittan fires a broadside against EC mergers body

FROM TOM WALKER
IN BRUSSELS

SIR LEON Brittan, the EC competition commissioner, delivered his long-awaited retort to those who believe his powers should be curtailed and an independent European Mergers Authority set up.

Speaking in Innsbruck, Austria, last night, Sir Leon voiced the "grave doubts" about divesting Brussels of its competition and mergers task force. He is fighting back against his enemies. These include prominent figures in the French political establishment — France's foreign minister, Roland Dumas, for example, has made little secret of his antipathy — and Martin Bangemann, the industrial commissioner.

Sir Gordon Borrie, head of the Office of Fair Trading, and his German counterpart, Wolfgang Kartte, are also numbered among Sir Leon's rivals.

Herr Bangemann and Herr Kartte have both suggested that an independent mergers authority for the Community could be based on Germany's Bundeskartellamt (cartel office), which has energetically promoted a "level playing field" for companies.

Sir Leon said the Berlin-based Kartellamt, headed by Herr Kartte, had enjoyed a unique cultural climate in Germany. "In the Community as a whole, it cannot be said there is a comparable



Sir Leon: fighting back

public commitment to the principles of competition policy," he said. His most serious objection, however, to a new authority is that it would have to bow to rulings from an arbiter, such as the European Commission or the Council of Ministers. That, he believes, would make it prone to political influence.

"Allowing the commission or council to override the competition authority would be to legitimise the application of political factors when it comes to making the final decision," he said.

Shorn of its ability to investigate a case with its 100-strong team of merger experts, the commission would be reduced to making political decisions on the new authority's judgements. That would give carte blanche to less mar-

ket-minded commissioners to veto them, according to Sir Leon. "If you give a body such as the commission or council the right to take the final decision," he said, "it is bound to want to exercise that right and to... bring to bear considerations other than those of competition."

The present arrangement had produced impartial decisions that did credit to Brussels, he said. More than half of the commission's experts were seconded from national competition authorities such as the Bundeskartellamt anyway. They saw cases through from start to finish.

The speech is unlikely to dampen controversy over the competition directorate — the commission department with the highest profile — as the 17-member college of commissioners nears the end of its tenure.

Herr Bangemann, fond of labelling competition experts "gurus and ayatollahs", said recently that Sir Leon had been wrong last autumn in the De Havilland case — in which ATR, jointly owned by France's Aerospatiale and Italy's Alenia, was blocked by the commission from taking over De Havilland of Canada.

There are doubts on whether a new competition commissioner will be as impartial as Sir Leon; and next year, France and its more interventionist allies might decide to revive the issue of competition versus industrial policy.



ROLLS-ROYCE ANNUAL RESULTS

In 1991, Rolls-Royce turnover fell by 4% to £3,515 million, compared with £3,670 million in 1990.

Operating profit fell to £335 million (1990 £468 million) reflecting a sharp fall in profit margin, caused by reduced volumes and adverse business mix.

Profit before exceptional items and tax was £109 million (1990 £226 million) after charging £216 million net Research and Development (1990 £237 million).

After exceptional charges of £58 million (1990 £50 million), largely to cover restructuring, profit before tax was further reduced to £51 million (1990 £176 million).

Year end net cash was £52 million (1990 £170 million), a good performance in difficult trading conditions.

GROUP PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

For the year ended December 31, 1991.	1991 £m	1990 £m
Turnover	3,515	3,670
Operating Profit	335	468
Profit before exceptional items and taxation	109	226
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	51	176
Profit attributable to shareholders	24	134
Earnings per ordinary share		
— net basis	2.5p	13.9p
— nil distribution basis	3.5p	15.3p
Dividend per ordinary share	7.25p	7.25p
Dividends: The directors recommend a final dividend of 4.7p per share (1990 4.7p per share) making a total dividend for 1991 of 7.25p per share.		

ANALYSIS BY BUSINESS

Turnover	1991 £m	1990 £m
Aerospace	2,033	2,339
Industrial Power	1,482	1,331
	3,515	3,670
Profit*	1991 £m	1990 £m
Aerospace	(6)	81
Industrial Power	73	102
	67	183

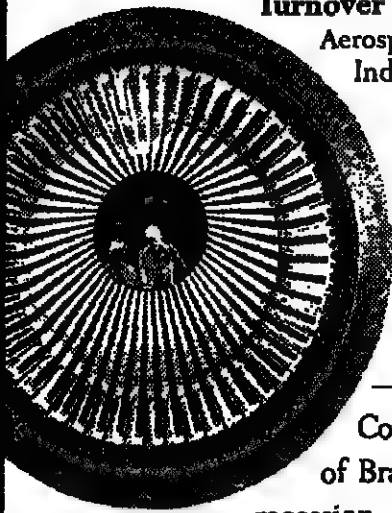
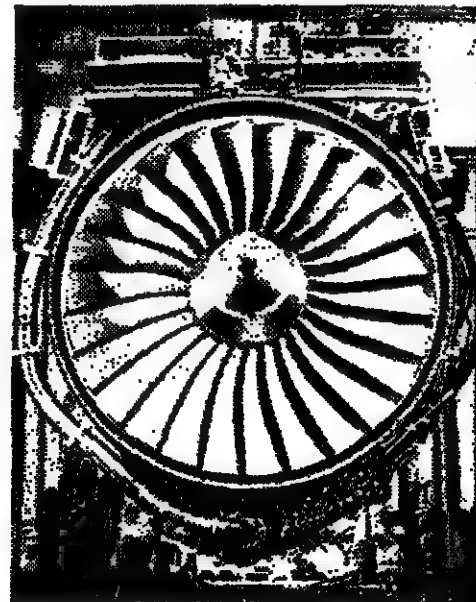
*Profit represents "profit on ordinary activities before taxation", after exceptional items, adjusted for net interest.

Commenting on the results, the Chairman of Rolls-Royce, Lord Tombs of Brailes, said; "The results are set against a background of economic recession, made worse by the Gulf War. However, our broader business base has enabled us to report profits in this difficult climate.

"We have continued to strengthen our position in highly competitive international markets. Our progress in building the order book whilst maintaining a strong balance sheet and reducing our cost base gives us every confidence for the future. On this basis we have maintained the dividend at the 1990 level."

Rolls-Royce plc, 65 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AT.

Financial data for the year to December 31, 1991 has been audited from the full Group accounts for that period. The 1991 accounts, which received an auditor's report without qualification, have not yet been delivered to the Registrar of Companies. The Annual Report will be published and sent to all Rolls-Royce plc shareholders by the end of April.



Rolls rides out the recession

The contrast between Rolls-Royce Motors and Rolls-Royce plc, the aero-engine maker, could scarcely be greater. The car company lost money last year after sales halved. Its parent, Vickers, is casting around for a partner to help fund models for the next decade. Rolls-Royce, the engine company, stayed in the black, albeit on lower profits. And the company's foresight in reducing reliance on military sales has enabled Rolls to weather the turbulence as government extracts its peace dividend.

Since Rolls-Royce was returned to the private sector almost five years ago, it has lifted its share of the world civil aero engine market from 11 per cent to 24 per cent, a magnificent achievement. Some £2 billion of shareholders' money has been invested in research and development. As a result, the company now relies upon five families of engine for its civil sales, instead of two. Rolls has a newer, and broader range of engines than either of its larger American rivals, Pratt & Whitney and General Electric.

This has been reflected in sales. Engine output has doubled to 400 a year and the order book is huge.

The impact has yet to reach the bottom line, for two reasons. First, aero engine makers have traditionally sold new engines for water-tight profits and made the real money on spares once they had the customer locked in.

Second, improved reliability has delayed the point at which engines start to consume spares hungrily from three years to six.

So although Rolls installed engine base is huge, and growing, it is, in Lord Tombs' phrase, immature. Not until the mid-1990s will Rolls reap the full benefit in its profit and loss account.

In the interim, job losses, cost cutting and restructuring remain the order of the day. If production costs can be sufficiently reduced, perhaps Rolls, and its rivals, can start to rebalance the profit equation so that engine prices better reflect improved reliability. That would benefit the company's owners, and employees, alike.

Lloyd's smears

The Prime Minister's office was quick to dissociate itself from the latest Lloyd's scare story to appear in usually highly regarded newspapers. The offending article painted a picture of Mr Major deeply concerned that the activities of so called insiders in the insurance market might damage the international standing of the City. Lloyd's critics would no doubt be delighted if the story were true. For it would clearly imply that the Prime Minister accepted the criticisms of the Lloyd's knockers. The response from his office yesterday makes clear that this is not the case. The attempt to use Mr Major in a context which casts Lloyd's in a bad light is the latest in a series of similar smears which taken together are beginning to raise the possibility of a dirty tricks campaign. Earlier notable efforts, later denied by the key players, suggested that high level Lloyd's figures were being given a serious hearing by the Bank of England over pleas for financial assistance and that clearing banks were cutting their credit lines to Lloyd's. These suggestions were strongly refuted by the Bank and Lloyd's itself. Doubtless there will be similar attempts to find a black side to yesterday's moves by Lloyd's to take prudent precautions to increase its liquid resources overseas and give the market greater flexibility in meeting claims. This is no more than good housekeeping at a time when the scare stories in London might affect overseas confidence in local money markets.

Philip Robinson looks at likely buyers for Virgin Music Group, foundation stone of the entrepreneur's empire and now up for sale

Thorn EMI now looks the odds-on favourite to emerge as the new owner of Richard Branson's Virgin Music Group, the world's last major independent record company, valued at \$1 billion. Mr Branson, the soft-spoken entrepreneur and airline owner, has been teasing the fickle industry for almost nine months, saying his music business was not up for sale, but letting it be known just how much he may want for it.

One New York analyst said: "There's got to be a fight over Virgin. It's not just because the business is attractive, but the various rivals will want to keep it out of the hands of their competitors. It was the same with [Michael] Jackson's new deal. Sony may not have wanted to pay him so much, but they didn't want him going anywhere else."

Goldman Sachs is now acting as auctioneer in a fight between Bertelsmann of Germany and Thorn EMI in the UK, which have both confirmed their interest.

Barring a last-minute change of heart, PolyGram, part of Philips, the Dutch giant Time Warner, the American entertainment group whose labels include Atlantic and Elektra, and Sony Corporation of Japan, which owns CBS, are out of the race.

So too is the Japanese Matsushita-owned MCA records; MCA snapped up Geffen Records, the last leading American independent label, almost two years ago in a stock and shares deal which made David Geffen, at 48, among the richest men in Hollywood. But he could have been \$40 million richer. Mr Geffen took MCA's 10 million shares, then valued at \$545 million, over a \$700 million cash and shares bid by Thorn. When Matsushita bid for MCA, Geffen's stake was valued at \$650 million.

The City estimates Mr Branson may get £570 million for his music business, whose top artists include the dancer-singer Paula Abdul, Janet Jackson, Genesis and now the Rolling Stones.

That is 30 times last year's estimated profits of £18 million and at the top end of prices paid in the past three years as the leading record industry players have scrambled to snap up smaller labels. The big six now control almost 90 per cent of the world market. A New York record industry executive said: "This is now a game of market share. That's the top priority of these companies."

Since 1989, to raise it has been to buy it: MCA's \$545 million deal with Geffen came amid Thorn's \$435 million for Chrysalis, and SBK and PolyGram's \$750 million bid for A&M and Island records. The industry's largest recent ownership change was the \$2 billion deal by



Record breaking: Paula Abdul, the singer, could soon find herself working for new masters

Sony for CBS records in 1988. Virgin is the last big independent deal left. Buying its 6 per cent market share would lift either Thorn or MCA from their joint third position to a clear second place with a 21 per cent share, pushing out Sony, which has 16 per cent. But neither would offer an immediate challenge to Time Warner, the largest with 29 per cent.

A purchase by Bertelsmann would rocket it from sixth to second position, equal with Sony, and restore the German group to a slightly higher market share than it had following the purchase of RCA from General Electric in 1986. Since then, its position has been savaged by the lack of English-language hits. Time Warner and Sony have each lost 3 per cent of market share points since 1987.

At the Grammy awards ceremony in New York last week, naming the winner of Virgin's auction was the top dinner table game, once the music industry had handed out its version of the Hollywood Oscars at the Radio City Music Hall. Time

Warner swept the board with 22 awards, taking best album, best record and best song with Natalie Cole's version of her father's classic, *Unforgettable*. Sony gained 14 — its top artist was Michael Bolton — and Thorn's Bonnie Raitt collected three Grammys, the total awarded to the group. But despite Mr Branson's own big name list, there were no accolades for his artists, who were nominated in two categories, but failed to win either.

Mr Branson, now 41, has let it be known he wants out of the record business, but he is effectively putting the family silver up for sale. Music is where he started, more than 20 years ago, and continues to provide more than half the profits of his empire. But close associates say that while he is no musical expert, he knows what sells. Some worry that he is swapping one volatile industry for a ride on another: the airline business, which has more ups and downs than a chart topper and eats much more money. However, it has

been the one industry that has drawn many successful entrepreneurs once they have enough money to burn.

Marvin Davis, the American billionaire and former owner of the 20th Century Fox TV studio, wanted to bet a large part of his fortune on a bid for America's United Airlines 30 months ago. Luckily for him the deal came to nothing and the airline industry nose-dived into its worst slump on record, killing off two leading names. Mr Branson's personal wealth is not yet in the billions of dollars but he is heavily committed to Voyager Travel Holdings, the division of his interests which controls the Virgin Atlantic airline and whose profits last year are estimated at £775,000 on a £281 million turnover.

Virgin now runs 18 aircraft to 13 cities world wide and wants to apply for routes to Johannesburg, San Francisco and Washington DC. Mr Branson says his ambition now is to create a quality airline that can survive on a world-wide basis. In recent years he has worked increas-

ingly with minority partners — three of them are Japanese.

A brief courtship with stock market investors in the mid-Eighties left a sour taste that prompted him to take his company back into private ownership. The City had made it clear by its lack of enthusiasm for his shares that it felt less than comfortable with companies where executive flair could increase investment risk.

Mr Branson is expected to apply a similar joint venture strategy to the sale of the music business, already part owned by Fujisanki, the Japanese media group that bought a 25 per cent stake for \$170 million in 1989. Its role in the current negotiations is far from clear. Mr Branson is expected to keep a small stake himself and insist that the management remain.

His first asking price was around \$2 billion, but if he can get \$1 billion and keep a stake, it would allow him the option to raise more money later by selling the balance at valuations he hopes will rise as the recession lifts.

Growth in compact disc sales has suddenly come to a halt after rising 10 per cent a year since they were introduced in 1983. Meanwhile, the cost of attracting talent continues to rise.

Michael Jackson now receives \$18 million a record up from \$9 million for each of his next six albums. His sister Janet recently signed a \$30 million contract with Virgin. Other record industry deals have given Aerosmith \$35 million and Motley Crue \$25 million.

Madonna, who is renegotiating with her current Sire Record label, owned by Time Warner, is pushing for a Jacksonesque price and movie deal. But she is in a weaker position. She still owes them three records under her current contract. She wants advances to rise from \$3 million to \$5 million per record and her royalty rate to climb from 18 per cent to 20 per cent, although this is still well short of the 25 per cent commanded by Michael Jackson.

Virgin is believed to have lured the constantly rolling Stones away from Sony with a 33 per cent rise in upfront payments from \$6 million to \$8 million; it paid them \$35 million for a three-year deal and rights to their records since 1971. It is the third time the Stones have changed labels in less than a decade. CBS Records poached them from Atlantic in the mid-Eighties for what was then a staggering record industry agreement on advances of \$6 million a record.

The industry itself is having to get leaner and meaner. Thorn recently announced 42 per cent staff cuts on its three main labels by merging marketing, promotions and sales, removing 150 jobs. But its music division profits for the year that ends this month are expected to rise 15 per cent to £124 million.

Mr Branson, who has said little publicly on the sale of what has been the seed corn of his empire, is on record with one quote: "It would be nice if it went to a European."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Linley's phoenix

VISCOUNT Linley's show-room on the King's Road, south-west London, will reopen in May after a fire in January wiped out most of his stock. The Queen's nephew, who has had a run of bad luck, including the theft of his £10,000 Harley Davidson motorbike last autumn, will recoup just less than £100,000 from his insurers who are on the brink of settling the claims. Most of the chairs, tables and other classic pieces, from David Linley Furniture, typically sell for £2,000 and more. Ruth Kennedy, managing director, says: "There's definitely a good market for us out there as we still do a lot of business through interior designers." The most recent returns at Companies House tell a story of hard times, with a turnaround from record profits of £116,000 in 1989 to a loss of £18,000 in 1990.



in the cars in the Norwich Union RAC classic car run from Castle Combe to Silverstone on May 24. Details from Hillier Parker on 071 606 6600.

JOHANNESBURG is a long way from the Square Mile... A recent report in South Africa's Business Day newspaper referred to those well known London institutions — Hambros and Barclays de Zoete Weld.

Classic sideline

TIMES are hard in the property business, but are they this hard? John Coventry, who runs the City office of Hillier Parker, the chartered surveyor, is running a profitable business on the side — hiring out posh cars. Vintage Occasions of Salisbury has two Rolls-Royces, an E-type Jaguar and two antique Land Rovers available for special events. Coventry hopes to use the 1928 Rolls-Royce Phantom and its sister, a 1935 model, to raise money for the Salisbury Cathedral Spire Appeal. The couple who raise the most sponsorship will ride

Trouble brewing

LIFE in North Yorkshire may not be as idyllic as one might imagine. Take the village of Masham, which has been split by a row involving the Theakston brewing family. The trouble began last autumn when Paul Theakston, who quit the former family business after it was bought by Scottish & Newcastle in 1988, announced that he was building a new brewery on the doorstep of the S&N site. Theakston has now given himself a month to raise £850,000 from investors under the business expansion scheme. An investment of

£625 — the minimum required — will buy 500 shares in the company, which aims to be churning out 12,500 barrels of Black Sheep bitter by 1995. His brother, John, chief executive of Higgs & Hill, the construction group, joins him on the board.

WHAT is the difference between a bond and a bond salesman? A bond matures.

PR speak

PIMS, the media services company, has published a guide to the "in" phrases used by trendy public relations executives. Their so-called jargon generator includes a list of "must" phrases to slip into conversation — "attitudinal hurdle", "ballpark figure" and so on — and examples of genuine PR speak is thrown in for good measure. On Hanson's need to regain City confidence: "What is needed is a revamped, heavily branded campaign with strategic input from the top." On Labour's tax proposals: "They've presented John Major with a carefully targeted, long-term, multi-dimensional, window of opportunity." Last but not least, the benefits of tax exempt special saving schemes: "Off the record, Texas opened up a unique and innovative corporate path-finding venture for investment houses and many held round the table brainstorming briefings at which they agreed to explore the window of opportunity in the market and give fund managers two bites of the cherry."

JON ASHWORTH

Reflections on Glaxo discounts

From Mr J C Porteous.

Sir, I feel it may interest your readers to know that most of Britain's High Street pharmacists would have been able to forecast the drop in value of Fisons shares. The availability of Opticrom (the hay fever treatment) was minimal during the first half of the hay fever season. Pharmacists also knew this to be the case in Europe and North America.

Your readers may now be interested to know that Glaxo have recently altered the terms of discount available, on their UK pharmaceuticals, to the UK pharmaceutical wholesalers. These terms

mean that pharmacists will receive less discount on Glaxo products. Pharmacists are obviously not going to let this go unchallenged. I feel that pharmacists will import more European Glaxo lines at a much lower price and also use, and encourage GPs to prescribe, more of Glaxo's drugs generically. Both of these options will result in reduced UK sales. I leave you to draw your own conclusions how this will affect Glaxo's share price and profitability. Yours faithfully

J C PORTEOUS
33 Springvale Road
Webbhead Redditch
Hereford and Worcester

Allowance would encourage investment

From Mr Gordon Williams

Sir, Professor Samuel Eilons letter (February 27) draws attention to a serious cause of low investment in plant and equipment. Compare the tax relief for a small company investing in either plant or in a pension scheme. If a client asks for advice I have no difficulty in recommending the pension scheme. The tax relief in the first year is four times as much and there is no risk. The 25% writing down method is clearly too low for high tech expenditure because of rapid obsolescence.

The investment in the pension fund is reinforced by the income of the pension fund being free of tax whereas the income from the investment in plant is taxed.

If the Treasury had been asked to devise a scheme to discourage industrial investment I doubt if they could have made a better job.

Professor Eilon implies that

the company should charge what depreciation it likes in the accounts. This solution is unnecessary and undesirable. It is undesirable because it makes it easier for directors to manipulate profits per the accounts. It is not necessary for the writing down allowance for tax and the depreciation rate to be the same. All that is required is the reintroduction of a first year allowance. It may be desirable to restrict the first year allowance to beneficial investment, e.g. manufacturing or import substitution. I will leave this point to better brains than mine. In the past the allowance has been an indiscriminate incentive and it could be targeted to the type of expenditure which would help to stop the long term decline in the UK relative competitive position.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON WILLIAMS
14a High Street,
Banstead, Surrey.

Pension sense

From Mr D Lindsay

Sir, Rather than simply raise pensions (which will worsen the large differential between male and female pensions in the 60-65 age range) as Mr Swain suggests as an alternative to tax cuts (Letters, March 2), why not equalise the state pension age at 60?

Not only will this achieve justice at a stroke, it will relieve the lot of those many 60-65 year olds who have no job and no pensions, release many jobs to the unemployed, allow 60-70 year olds to move into part-time work, reduce employers' pension costs (so benefiting employment and investment), spread further spending power among a responsible sector, take some of the heat out of the Maas-tricht "Barber" Protocol, and, of course, appeal to the good sense of the electorate.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LINDSAY,
Legal Adviser,
Campaign for Equal State Pension Ages,
36 Orchard Coombe,
Whitchurch Hill,
Reading, Berks.

Over the top

From Mr D H Durkin

Sir, Following Mr Ian Hay Davidson's letter (February 27) regarding the future of Lloyd's, I am wondering what use could be made of the building in the event of a demise.

Whilst the graceful Fifties building could be turned into a ballroom with bars and restaurants in the gallery, the only alternative business use for the new building would seem to be bungee jumping or free-fall parachuting. Yours faithfully
D H DURKIN,
24 Harlands Close,
Haywards Heath,
W Sussex.

Lives Remembered

THE TIMES OBITUARIES OF 1991

Obituaries are news, and *The Times* has greatly increased the space devoted to them each day. From the 900 or so published last year David Heaton and John Higgins have selected some 180 to provide a fascinating insight into the lives of all sorts of conditions of men and women

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Fewer out of work helps lift gloom in Germany

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

MILD weather lifted some of the gloom over the German economy at the start of the year, according to official figures.

They show unemployment falling nationwide last month after a January jump of almost 6 per cent in industrial output in the western half of the country.

The welcome dose of good news on the economy coincided with the regular fortnightly session of the Bundesbank policy-setting council, which left key interest rates unchanged.

Although the latest economic data went some way to correcting the poor economic picture from December, the economy remains on a downward trend after three quarters of shrinking output.

The Bundesbank and the Bonn government still talk of a slowdown from previous exceptional growth rates caused by unification, rather than recession.

Provisional figures from the economics ministry showed an 8.5 per cent surge in output in the construction industry, reflecting the unusually benign weather, helping to boost industrial output in western Germany by a seasonally adjusted 5.9 per cent in January.

The bounceback was flattered by the very weak December figures, when industrial output dropped 4.2 per cent. The December fall was originally given as 3.1 per cent. Industrial output over the latest three months was about 0.5 per cent down on the previous three months.

Labour office data, meanwhile, showed that unemployment in east Germany fell back to 16.4 per cent in February from a record 17 per cent in January.

Despite economic slow-down, unemployment in

western Germany fell back to 6.8 per cent from 6.9 per cent.

The construction industry and agriculture, both benefiting from the weather, provided the biggest improvements in the labour market.

In eastern Germany, government subsidised jobs and retraining schemes continue to mask more serious real unemployment, according to Heinrich Franke, head of the federal labour office. But the number of west Germans working short-time rose substantially in February, with the greatest increases in building, electronics and plant construction.

Ruth Lea, chief economist at Mitsubishi Bank, said that the German data largely represented a "correction" from bad December figures. But she said they also confirmed the view that Germany is "not entering a mega-recession", as some of the gloomier forecasters believe.

She saw nothing in the latest figures to prompt the Bundesbank into any early easing in monetary policy.

She foresees no cuts in German interest rates until the third quarter, at the earliest. Most forecasters still expect unemployment to show a slight rise this year.

In Japan, Kichii Miyazawa, the prime minister, and the key members of his cabinet have agreed that the government must take measures to give the flagging economy a boost, according to Takeshi Noda, the economic planning agency minister.

Although Mr Noda said the question of a cut in the official discount rate was not discussed, the government is expected to increase the pressure on Yasushi Mieno, the governor of the Bank of Japan, to initiate an early easing.

More O'Ferrall finds shelter in second half

By JONATHAN PRYNN



Brighter outlook: Russell Gore-Andrews, the chairman, whose second-half profit prediction came good

MORE O'Ferrall, the billboard and bus shelter advertising site contractor that raised £13.4 million through a rights issue in October, has made a strong second-half profit recovery.

Profits slumped to £800,000 in the first six months of the year as the company took the strain of the advertising downturn in the UK. The prediction of Russell Gore-Andrews, the chairman, that the second six months would see a substantial improvement in profits but without matching 1990 levels came good: second-half profits reached £5 million (£7.7 million), making £5.8 million (£9.7 million) for the year to end-December.

As expected, the hardest hit division was UK and Ireland, with a 36 per cent fall in operating profits to £7.1 million. Belgium was little changed at £1.4 million, while France improved from £364,000 to £855,000.

The interest bill was almost unchanged at £3.36 million and the rights issue cut net debt to £8.6 million, giving gearing of 26 per cent.

A 10p final dividend makes 13.2p for the year, unchanged after adjusting for the rights issue.

New issues for ASB task force

The Accounting Standards Board might force property developers who take loans with low early interest payments to charge the full overall cost in their accounts from the start. The topic is among those being investigated by a task force.

These also include valuation of assets moved from fixed to current status (which can bring a meaningless accounting profit), presentation of debtors not receivable for more than a year as current assets and accounting for post-retirement benefits other than pensions.

Life Sciences beats recession

Life Sciences International, a laboratory equipment supplier, announced a 29 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £18.5 million, its fifth consecutive year of profits growth.

Christopher Bland, chairman, said the result showed the "recession-proof characteristics" of the Life Sciences business. The total dividend is up to 3.35p (2.9p) after a final payment of 2.2p (1.9p).

Negotiations on listing

Donald Gordon, chairman of Transatlantic Holdings, a Luxembourg-quoted property and insurance group, said the company was talking to the London Stock Exchange about a listing.

For the year to December 31, Transatlantic reported pre-tax profits of £57.8 million, down from £70.6 million. The dividend has been cut from 13.5p to 12.9p.

TLS passes final payout

Losses have forced TLS Range, a USM-quoted vehicle rental group, to pass its final dividend (0.8p). The group blamed the recession in the motor trade for a pre-tax loss of £259,000 in the year to December 31, compared with a profit of £807,000 last time. Turnover climbed from £8.8 million to £9.97 million.

Falling orders for oil undercuts Opec target

By MARTIN BARRROW

WORLD demand for oil produced by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries will decline by 8.5 per cent to 22.6 million barrels per day (bpd) in the second quarter of this year from 24.7 million in the first, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said in its monthly oil market report.

The seasonal decline will leave demand significantly below Opec's production target of just under 23 million bpd, agreed at last month's ministerial meeting in Geneva.

The imbalance between demand and supply has undermined oil prices, which remain well adrift of Opec's target of \$21 a barrel. North Sea Brent, which trades at a premium to the

basket of Opec crudes, was priced at \$17.41 yesterday.

The IEA, an oil industry watchdog for big consumers, estimated that global demand would decline from 67.8 million bpd in the first quarter to 65.2 million in the second. That would rise by 1.4 per cent to 66.1 million in the third, resulting in a 3.5 per cent rise in demand for Opec and oil company stocks.

Opec output declined to 24.3 million bpd in February from a revised figure of 24.4 million in January. Saudi Arabia, Opec's largest producer, trimmed production to 8.5 million from 8.6 million in January, excluding its half-share in the 300,000 bpd from the neutral zone shared with Kuwait.

Dividend pegged at Radius

A DIFFICULT second half resulted in a sharp drop in profits at Radius, the computer systems supplier. In the 12 months to the end of November, pre-tax profits fell from £2.8 million to £366,000, reducing earnings from 6.5p a share to 0.8p. At the interim stage, the company returned profits of £900,000.

Despite the setback, Radius is maintaining dividends at 2.7p a share with an unchanged final of 1.8p, uncovered by earnings. Michael Roberts, chairman, said the unchanged dividend reflected a strong balance sheet, with cash balances rising from £2.48 million to £3.13 million during the year.

Turnover was £28.12 million (£29.9 million) but operating profits declined from £2.82 million to £942,000.

Middle East demand bolsters MTL profit

By OUR CITY STAFF

MTL Instruments, which makes explosion protection devices, was one of the few companies to benefit from the uncertainty in the Middle East caused by the Gulf war.

Strong demand from the troubled region, coupled with the installation of improved safety equipment at North Sea oil production facilities, helped MTL lift pre-tax profits from £3.77 million to £4.61 million last year.

Earnings rose from 13.69p a share to 16.6p. The group will pay a final dividend of 1.9p a share, making 3.4p for the year, against 2.8p last time.

Turnover grew from £14.05 million to £18.03 million and operating profits from £3 million to £3.94 million.

With trading margins showing a slight improvement as a result of greater manufacturing efficiency and a larger contribution from overseas subsidiaries, the group said.

Capital investment totalled £2 million, including £700,000 spent on two buildings at a 1.2-acre site at Luton, Bedfordshire. Cash balances at year-end rose £1.6 million to £6.3 million although investment income fell from £743,000 to £630,000 because of lower interest rates.

Ian Hutcheon, the group chairman, said MTL would continue to expand despite the difficulties of recession. Orders have risen 23 per cent year-on-year.

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Further enquiries are welcomed by Medical Administration on (013) 817 3358. Resumes should be sent to: Dr. J. G. Gorman, who will no longer gain automatic registration in Australia from July, 1992, they are encouraged to apply promptly.

THE TIMES FRIDAY MARCH 6 1992

Widespread falls

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 24. Dealings end today. Settlement day March 9. Settlement day March 10. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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1	Admiral	Electrical	
2	Demon	Textiles	
3	IMI	Industrial	
4	Unit TV	Leisure	
5	SA Breweries	Breweries	
6	TV-am	Leisure	
7	Quick Group	Motor/Air	
8	Bank One	Industrial	
9	Ladbrokes	Recreation	
10	Alcan	Drugs/Pharm	
11	Island	Industrial	
12	ISA Int	Industrial	
13	Salvans	Food	
14	Macro 4	Electrical	
15	Widley	Industrial	
16	Countdown	Food	
17	Jeppia	Building/Air	
18	Hayward	Electrical	
19	Sema Co	Industrial	
20	Minicor	Industrial	
21	De Poyne	Industrial	
22	Thames & India	Transport	
23	Wardle	Chem/Pharm	
24	Dunhill	Drugs/Pharm	
25	Williams	Industrial	
26	Seaward	Industrial	
27	Citic (I)	Motor/Air	
28	Healey	Industrial	
29	Dale	Electrical	
30	IT	Industrial	
31	British Hill	Electrical	
32	Post	Industrial	
33	De Acropolis	Motor/Air	
34	More O'Connell	Food	
35	Boleyn	Building/Air	
36	Greenland	Industrial	
37	Plasma	Industrial	
38	Teckintan	Industrial	
39	Stirling	Industrial	
40	Brunner	Industrial	
41	Williams	Industrial	
42	Hughes	Drugs/Pharm	
43	ESBC	Drugs/Pharm	
44	Alcan	Industrial	

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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Pilot project helps tied pub tenants

By Derek Harris

A PILOT scheme is being launched in Sheffield to help the tenants of tied pub houses when the tie ends and they start running their public houses as an independent business. Preliminary discussions have started that could spread the initiative around the country. It breaks new ground compared with other long-term schemes adopted by some big brewers when reducing the number of their tied estate to meet monopolies requirements.

Bass, Britain's biggest brewer, which has a strong public house presence in the north of England, is linked with the Sheffield initiative developed by the Sheffield Enterprise Agency (SEA) with the backing of the Sheffield Training and Enterprise Council (TEC) and the Department of Employment. In the pilot, a dozen pubs are chosen to represent various outlets from town establishments to country pubs, including some strategically placed to benefit from tourism generated by the Peak National Park which lies just outside the Sheffield city boundary.

Bass Lease, a Bass subsidiary, has 1,200 pubs in England and Wales earmarked for eventual conversion from tied to licensed status as Bass whittles down its tied estate. Nearly half have been switched to commercial licences, typically running for ten years, but

some for 15 or 20 years. Bass Lease already advises the tied tenants during the transformation into separate businesses, but the Sheffield scheme will offer help over a six-month period without the involvement of brewery personnel. The value of the scheme to each pub owner will be up to £4,500, but subsidies will reduce the cost to about £300.

The difference will be made up from the Sheffield TEC, Bass and the employment department. Each business will get an individual audit and there will be help from professional advisers.



Future profits unearthed in the past

By Sally Watts

TURNING Hadrian and the venerable Bede to good account, Lucy Walker used them as her starting point when she began Specialty Tours in 1984. Today the business arranges tours in archaeology, landscape and social history around Britain, all with specialist guides.

She had several reasons for founding the tour operating business. For one, she wanted to avoid becoming involved in things like "power play, hierarchies and gender politics". She was also keen to infect others with her own enthusiasm for the past.

An Oxford graduate in history and Italian, Ms Walker had previously done field work in Oxford's extra-mural department of archaeology. Her boss ran programmes in field archaeology and this gave her the germ of her business idea. She found the programmes "interesting and fun" and realised the same could be done to make archaeology interesting to lay people.

She began her business while living in Durham and working as a field archaeologist. During the first three years, Specialty Tours centred on the North-East.

In her start-up, she was helped by the use of Oxford extra-mural's mailing system to despatch leaflets. She gave up her job to spend four months on an enterprise training scheme at Durham University business school. "I had some savings and put about £1,000 into

the business. And I got a Tourist Board grant for 40 per cent of my marketing costs," she says. She worked from home, on an electric typewriter (now there is a computer), but contracted in part-time secretarial and mailing help.

In 1987, Diane Williamson joined Specialty Tours as a partner. The business prospered and now has an annual turnover between £60,000 and £70,000. To offset the effects of the recession and stimulate cash flow it is expanding into winter "city break" weekends. In addition, it offers tailored packages.

Ms Walker, aged 37, moved to Cambridge a year ago. The business, still based in Durham, is managed by both partners, with Mrs Williamson responsible for day-to-day running and the accounts, helped by a small book-keeping system. Printing, the main expense, is done in Durham.

Each tour is planned with its professional guide. The main ones, from £265 to £390, last five nights. One highlight of the new season is archaeology of the Scilly Isles led by Professor Charles Thomas, former director of Exeter University's Institute of Cornish Studies. Others are Chichester's Roman and medieval landscapes, and the Borders led by Tom Clare, Cumbria County archaeologist.

"Clients like the personal touch, some come back year after year and we get a lot of single, professional people," Ms Walker says.



Personal touch: Lucy Walker, founder, Specialty Tours

BRIEFINGS

BRIGHT Ideas could earn small UK businesses awards of up to £100,000 in the 1992 Smart competition. Smart is the Small Firms Merit Award for Research and Technology. Each year, the trade and industry department offers 180 stage-one awards of up to £45,000 each.

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Novelty and innovation are key qualities sought in the competition, which closes on April 24. Application forms are available at DTI regional offices and Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland offices. Results are usually ready by August. Contact Richard Burton at London Regional Technology Centre on 071-922 8862.

□ Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry has launched an insurance service for its 5,000 member companies. The service is tailored to individual needs and aims to offer the keenest prices. Details from the chamber at 75 Harborne Road, Birmingham B15 3DH, or telephone 021-454 6171.

□ The Zillwood Trust, a non-profit-making organisation, has been set up to provide free, 12-week training courses for women in the West Midlands wanting to set up their own businesses. Details: Linda Ward on 0902 324409.

EDITED BY DEREK HARRIS

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Playing tag in the office

The potential uses of electronic tagging have ranged from keeping minor offenders under a form of house arrest to alerting old peoples' homes when residents stray. It can be useful in offshore work sites, where for safety reasons it may be necessary to know who is where on board a rig.

But for wider use electronic tagging is most likely to make its presence felt in the office, and the more high-tech, the more likely it is that employees will eventually be tagged.

In a project jointly funded by Olivetti and Digital Equipment more than 130 people are now wearing electronic badges about 2 in square, known as active badges. The system was started one-and-a-half years ago and uses infrared sensors which pick up transmissions from the badges and keep tabs on who is where in a building throughout the working day.

The project involves 35 people at Olivetti Research and more than 100 at the nearby University of Cambridge computer laboratory. Now Olivetti and Digital

Electronic systems to keep track of people at work are being tested. Matthew May looks at the possibilities

are investigating how to incorporate the results of the project into commercial products.

"I think that by the end of this year electronic badges will be appearing in various guises," says Dr Andy Hopper, managing director of Olivetti Research in Cambridge, where much of the work is being done. "But they will probably be sold as part of a larger system connected to computers, phone systems or whatever."

The ability to link the location of people in an office to computers, telephones and other devices is said to be the main advantage: the latest hi-tech systems can work far more efficiently if they know where someone is.

Telephone calls, for example, can be routed to the telephone nearest to the badge wearer while the tag can also be used to log people on to a computer automatically as soon as they sit down at a screen. It should also

prevent people from logging on under false identities.

Urgent electronic mail can be sent to the nearest terminal and its arrival announced by a beep from a badge. Three beeps may indicate the arrival of a visitor.

Dooks can be programmed to admit only certain badge wearers and shared computer printers can be told to give priority to requests from those actually in the building.

The idea of phone calls being able to track people down wherever they are may be seen as a potential nightmare for those who already spend hours dodging calls that are less important than the work they are trying to get done. To accommodate this, a button can be pushed on the badge to tell the system the wearer is busy.

However, the software controlling the active badges goes further than this: for example, if more than three badges are grouped together in the same room they are

automatically assumed to be having a meeting and will not lightly be disturbed.

Individual badge wearers can also program the system to their particular idiosyncrasies: for example, allowing interruptions sometimes wherever they are in the building but never if their badge shows they are in the boss's office.

Next week the system will be upgraded to test a personal alarm facility. By pressing the button on a badge several times, the wearer will generate an emergency message on the system giving his or her location and identity.

As with many new technologies, the cost is likely to start high and then tumble if the system takes off. "In large volumes these badges should only cost a few pounds a person," says Dr Hopper, "though at the moment it is tens of pounds."

Technical problems with the system have included hefty power consumption by the badges, although the batteries now last for two years, and a few initial headaches making the infrared sensors work when the sun was coming in through the windows.

The only problem now, he says, are the users. "People do sit on them 50 times a day and then wonder why they don't work," he complains.

Less easy to solve will be the social objections to office tagging systems that, many would argue, intrude on privacy. Such objections have surrounded other electronic tagging systems with controversy, especially if it results in a record being made of somebody's movements.

"You have to be quite careful how you present this system to people, and so in Olivetti Research there is no recording of information," Dr Hopper says. "We have found it soon becomes so useful that people find it acceptable."

"The biggest user of computer time is the badge system, because everybody is looking at it all the time."



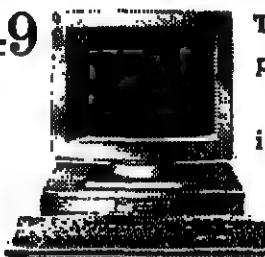
No hiding place: Dr Andy Hopper shows the badge that can keep tag of employees

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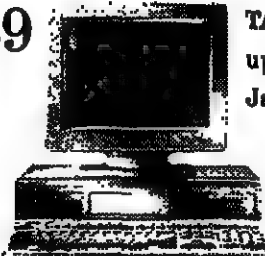
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Discord rules the airwaves

Hopes that the next generation of television sets would be based on a common world standard were dashed this week as representatives of many of the world's governments met in Torremolinos, Spain, to divide up the ether for the years to come.

More than 1,300 delegates from 120 countries attended the meeting, the World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC), which will affect broadcast and other radio-based services for years.

Other disappointed groups included hard radio enthusiasts: the conference considered the frequencies they use too valuable to allow any extension. Those eager to see an early use of phones on transatlantic flights also faced a setback.

Backers of plans for implement a global mobile phone system using miniature satellites had more reason to be happy about the outcome of the conference as a last-minute motion ensured they got their chunk of the spectrum.

The most ambitious plan, by Iridium, a subsidiary of Motorola, is to put 77 satellites in low Earth orbit, which will allow mobile phones, laptop computers and pagers to communicate with each other anywhere in the world. The service could begin within two years and eventually have two million subscribers.

The four-week event was characterised by a struggle between the world's different regions to get what they considered best for themselves — the United States, for example, was determined to see 17GHz adopted as a worldwide standard for high definition television pictures broadcast from satellites.

Europe, on the other hand, was holding out for 21GHz. The agreement to adopt both frequencies guarantees

that equipment made for North America will be incompatible with that for Europe.

The US and Europe also agreed to differ on the frequencies to be used for telephone links to aircraft and with a dual allocation it means that airlines will have to kit out their aircraft with two sets of equipment — one for Argentina, Canada, Mexico and the US and another for the rest of the world.

In anticipation of a boom in mobile communications, parts of the radio spectrum were reserved for land-based mobile communications systems, which should ensure a host of services becoming available between now and the end of the century.

Though shortwave broadcasters were allocated some extra space, serious congestion means that some broadcasters may move to a more expensive transmitting technology. It is feared that this could lose millions of listeners in developing countries who will not be able to afford new high-tech radios.

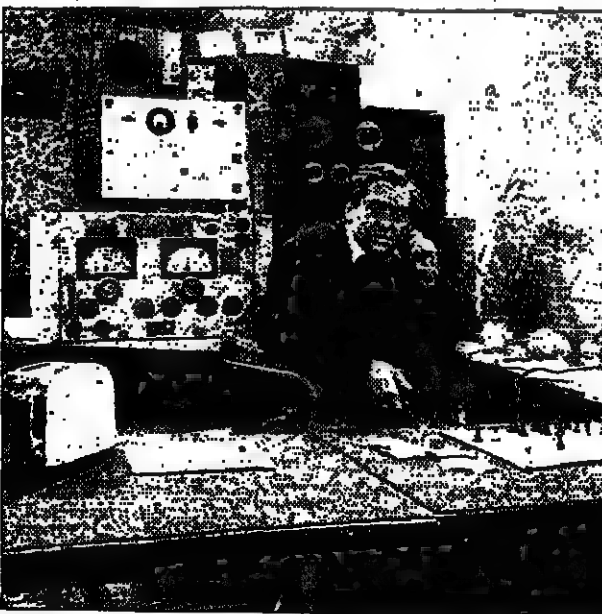
The problem of shortwave congestion has become worse since the proliferation of smaller stations in Eastern Europe and Russia.

Alternatives suggested include sticking to shortwave but using the spectrum more efficiently through a technology known as "single sideband" that allows 50 per cent more stations on the same frequency, or moving to what some call the future of radio — direct satellite broadcast.

Both approaches have the same drawback — new receivers will cost between £50 and £100, perhaps ten times as much as radios cost in some poor nations.

The use of single sideband is not supported by big international broadcasters like the BBC and Voice of America. They say the plan would render most of their listeners' radios obsolete.

PETER PURTON



Slice of ham: Tony Hancock searches the ether

Compaq aim to serve.

What you need to know about Compaq's announcements (March 3 1992): ● New servers and desktop units (up to 50MHz 486DX2, 1020Mb disk) with upgradeable processor boards. ● Price cuts (up to 30% off). ● QVision super hi-res graphics system. ● Executive summary available from

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Plain fax about the weather

The Meteorological Office offers detailed forecasting by telephone. Nick Nuttall sniffs the wind

Aero clubs, private pilots and even wing walkers preparing for the new season can now get instant access to weather reports, forecasts and charts through their facsimile machine.

The service gives pilots up to three days' warning of whether a planned trip from, say, southern England to northern Scotland is feasible in the prevailing weather patterns. It can also provide aerial acrobats with the kind of detailed information on wind speeds and gusting that might spell the difference between a successful or calamitous show.

"In the past people might have an agreement with a local weather centre to have such information sent to them, which was fairly labour-intensive or they would rely on telephone forecasts," Jim Ephraums of the Meteorological Office at Bracknell, Berkshire, which organises the scheme, says.

"There was never any way of getting hold of this range of information when you needed it."

The service, which is also available to commercial pilots, is being extended to cover parts of the Continent and is tailored to deliver highly specific forecasts for individual aerodromes in Britain.

The Met Office also has plans to provide charts, weather patterns and other meteorological information to aviation customers on home or office personal computers through a development called the meteorological information self-briefing terminal (Mist).

Mist will allow weather information to be delivered in real-time and in colour, with the possibility of customers being able to rove through weather databases.

The development of fax services for the aviation market highlights a growing range of fax-based services coming on stream from the Met Office.

"There are about a million and a quarter fax machines in Britain and we are now the biggest publisher in the area of dial-up fax," Mr Ephraums says.

A system called MetFax Marine is also expected to be introduced in the spring in time for the yachting season. This will provide a package of weather charts and text-based forecasts and reports for yachtsmen.

The office has already launched one part of the service. Traditionally the shipping forecast has been issued four times a day by BBC Radio.

"In the past you had to listen in and jot it down," Mr Ephraums says. "Now we have it on dial-up fax so you can get it on a piece of paper."

The advantages of such a system are that other telephone numbers can be dialled to acquire more detailed information to support the shipping forecast.

"By dialling other numbers you can get a map of all the shipping areas, a description of the Beaufort scale or synoptic charts that show features such as pressure systems and fronts," Mr Ephraums says.

This year for the first time farmers and fertiliser merchants are also being offered a dial-up fax service that indicates the best time to fertilise pastures.

Research indicates that when the average daily temperatures from January 1 add up to 200C, grass needs fertilising.

Malcolm Lee, the agricultural services manager at the Met Office, says: "There is evidence that putting fertiliser on at this time means there is less scope for substances like nitrates running off into water courses as this is the time when the grass is going to make the best use of the fertiliser."

As with all the office's dial-up fax services, farmers call a premium-rate number, which links with a computer in Warrington, Cheshire. This is where the weather service computer, managed by Vodata Service, of Newbury, Berkshire, is based.

A recorded voice then invites the farmer to switch on his fax machine and the information is transmitted. The fertiliser forecast, which gives regional information

several days in advance, issued feeding advice for most of the UK at the end of February. Fertilising forecasts for Scotland and the north of England, where average daily temperatures have been lower, are expected soon.

A further farming service using fax has also gone nationwide recently, Mr Lee says. Called Weatherfax, the service offers specific, six-day weather forecasts for different areas of the country.

It also offers a daily faxed forecast to subscribing farmers which, it is hoped, will help cut levels of pesticides, herbicides and fungicides sprayed on crops by indicating the best time to spray.

Farmers often have to respray crops with chemicals because rain or wind has washed them away. Moreover, some pesticides work best at certain temperatures.

The service, which includes weather forecasts at county level, sends faxes at 6am, detailing wind speed, humidity, rain, sunshine and temperatures, thereby identifying the times when it is best to spray crops and the days

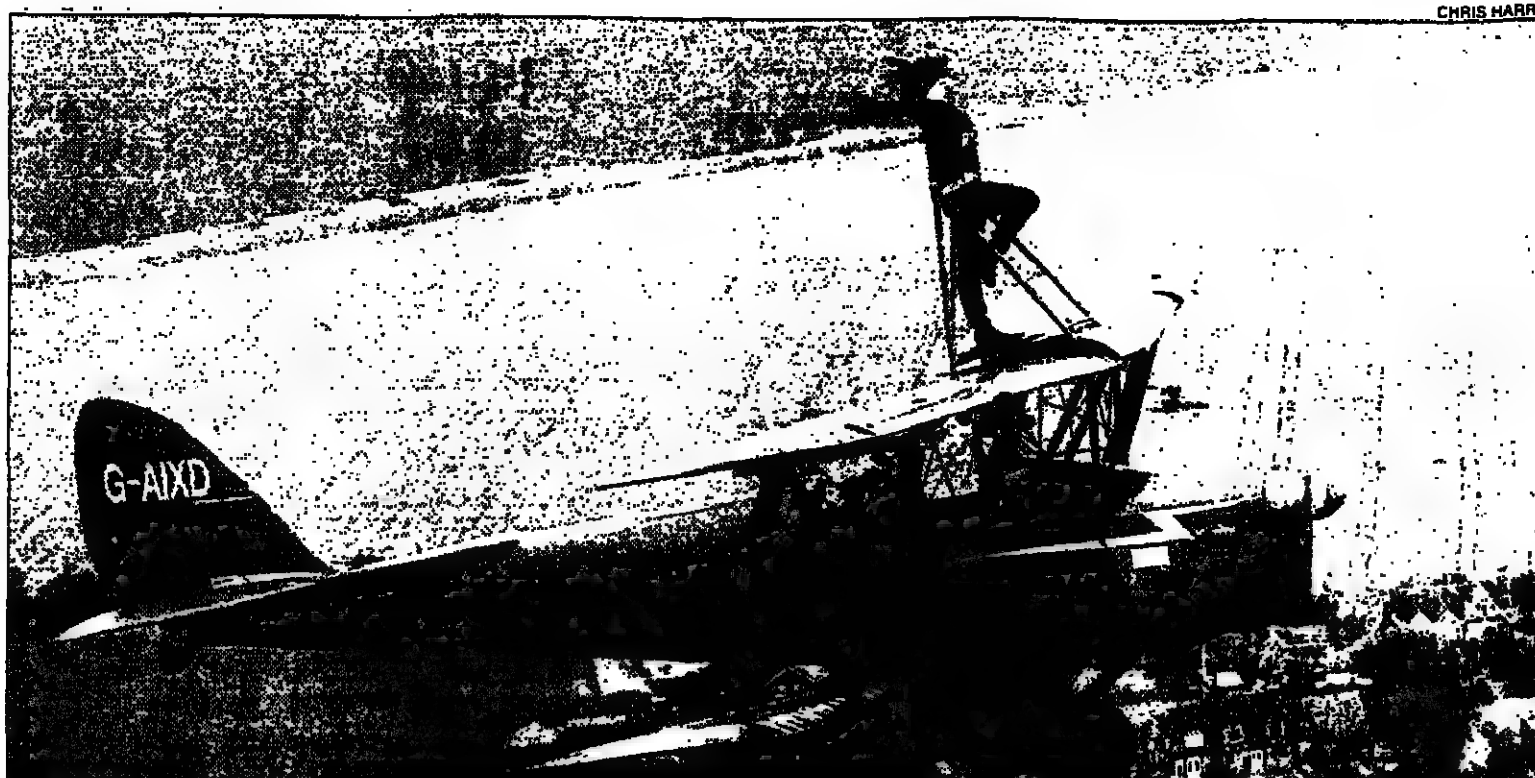
when spraying should be delayed or omitted altogether because conditions are not suitable.

Studies by the Meteorological Office, ICI and ADAS, the government agricultural advisory service, indicate that pesticide use could be cut by 2,400 tonnes annually or 10 per cent a year. This should help not only the environment

but farmers' pockets in a time of recession, says Mr Lee.

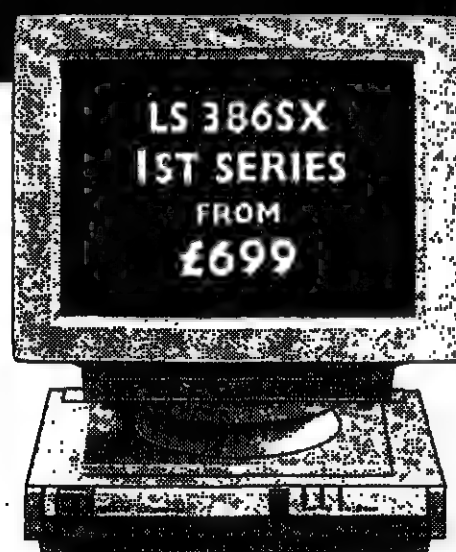
The service costs between £60 and £150 a month, depending on the level of detail and was initially offered in the East Midlands and East Anglia. Mr Lee says it now covers 77 intensive agriculture areas of Britain.

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Feature	XEN-LS 1st Series 386SX-16/11/50	LS 1st Series 386SX-16/11/50	LS 1st Series 386SX-16/11/1	LS 1st Series 386SX-16/11/50
Processor	16MHz 386SX	16MHz 386SX	16MHz 386SX	16MHz 386SX
Memory - standard	1 Mb	1 Mb	1 Mb	1 Mb
Maximum onboard memory	8 Mb	8 Mb	8 Mb	8 Mb
Floppy disk drive	1.44 Mb 3.5"	n/a	1.44 Mb 3.5"	1.44 Mb 3.5"
Hard disk drive	50 Mb IDE	n/a	n/a	50 Mb IDE
Hard disk Average access time	17 ms	n/a	n/a	17 ms
Hard disk Cache	64k	n/a	n/a	64k
Serial port	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard
Parallel port	Standard	Optional	Optional	Optional
Onboard Ethernet	No	Standard	Standard	Standard
AT expansion slots	Three	n/a	n/a	n/a
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Richards relieved to retire unhurt

By Simon Barnes

Odd how the world changes. Imagine, a few years ago, having a beer with Viv Richards, talking — laughing — about South Africa's chance of beating West Indies in one-day cricket. And Viv all mellow and giggling and shaking his head and saying, "I never thought it would happen in my time."

Everything is changing, but there is none so changeable as Vivian, a man famous for great rages, but a man equally capable of great mellowness. "Older and mellow," he said. "Wiser, too."

If ever cricket had a colossus, it was he. Now preparing to start a new season with all teams, Glamorgan, while the World Cup continues without him a world away, Richards was in this country for a couple of days to promote a video, buy a new pair of boots, have a beer. You could not wish for easier company. Can this really be the man who shouldered down the Antigua press-box?

There is the very faintest air of relief about him. He seems happy to be facing the gentler challenge of Glamorgan, after the mad intensity of all those years of international cricket. And he stresses how glad he was that his last Test series — in England last summer — was so tranquil. "Cricket as it ought to be played. It would have been nice to win 5-0 — but opponents who are beaten 5-0 are often not too pleased. I positively feel it was nice to have that series."

Richards is in a period of transition now, halfway between being the world's leading cricketer and living the rest of his life. "I did make myself available for the World Cup, I wanted to play, though not to be captain. I thought maybe I could put together some ones and twos, maybe even some threes."

"But they thought different. And no, I won't be playing against South Africa when they play us in the Test match in Barbados. It is a prestigious sort of occasion, but the important thing for West Indies cricket is to rebuild. Everyone is curious to see South Africa."

"The problems in South Africa still exist. I just hope the hardliners in South Africa will now be able to see their international teams in cricket and soccer and what even, participating and mixing with all different groups and races all over the world, and that this will help with the speedy dismantling of apartheid."



Facing the future with a smile: as his cricket career reaches an end, Richards is looking forward to spending more time at home

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contemplating his turbulent past as batsman-destroyer and captain-volcano, and his likely future in a world more turbulent than anything even cricket can come up with.

That is, of course, Caribbean politics. "People say a batsman as good as me should have scored more runs, but what was more important to me was the people who came around and the chances you have given the people. I enjoyed what I did for the people."

The people. Talk politics with Viv, and he talks only of The People. "If the people are crying out for me, then I want to represent them, because of my firm beliefs."

"The problem in Antigua is corruption, and we need some respectability. Everyone is like a relay runner, with his hand stretched out. You fill his hand and he's gone. You find it all the time

in Third World governments. Everyone says, 'we will change it', and they get in and everything continues the same as before."

"I would like to turn that around. To say to the Caribbean people, 'you can have faith in me.' I want to prove to the Caribbean people that things can be run honestly and well. Too many people are in office for the benefits of office. I want those benefits too — I want to benefit The People."

Does this make him a socialist? "I see myself as a guy who honestly cares about the welfare of the people. What do you think — does that put me in the category of being a socialist?"

Clearly, Richards has what it takes to be a conviction politician. As a diplomat, his record is spotty, to say the very least. His love of

confrontation has always been his weakness as well as his strength, but this has been true of many a British politician, Margaret Thatcher to name but one.

Richards has a similar sense of the intractability of personal and national ambition, though his belief is for, rather than against, federation. "Cricket alone enables us to unite the people of the Caribbean. Cricket has done what we should have done officially a long time ago. East Germany has reunited with the West. Europe is moving closer together: why can we not do this in the Caribbean?"

Richards is not going to be a nimble-footed type of politician. He has dropped bricks already, notably alienating Caribbean people with Indian, rather than African, roots. But with the batsman you saw, inevitably, the man: unflinching, prone to the occasional spectacular error, sometimes losing sight of the main goal in pursuit of a smaller vendetta, but dominated, above all, by a sense of destiny, personal destiny, yes, but also something beyond that.

Now onwards. To, perhaps, the presidential residence in St John's, Antigua — but, naturally, via Cardiff. Still a little cricket left.

□ Viv Richards: Hitting Across the Line (Chrysalis Home Video, 60min: £10.99).

West Indies lack discipline

Pringle collects four top-order scalps in 11 balls

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN CHRISTCHURCH

IT WAS almost as though the West Indians went out of their way in the World Cup here yesterday to make the South Africans feel at ease. This first match ever played between the two was won by South Africa by 64 runs, the West Indians giving one of their more slapdash performances. Unless I am much mistaken, the West Indians are missing Vivian Richards badly.

Although 14,641 people turned up to watch, it was an odd low-key affair. Both captains made the point that their sides were focusing strictly on the cricket. There were no political trappings. The match itself was no different from any other, except that it began with Ali Bacher, who has done more than anyone to bring South Africa's cricketing isolation to an end, being on hand, after the toss, to have a cordial exchange with Richie Richardson, the West Indies captain. "I've been playing cricket for a good many years with South Africans now," Richardson said, "without meeting one I didn't like. I hope it stays that way." And so say all of us.

There was some fairly ordinary cricket played. In reaching 200 for eight off their 50 overs, after being put in on a morning that promised well for bowlers, the South Africans kept getting themselves into a promising position, only for a wicket to fall.

Six of them reached the twenties, but only Kirsten went any further, and he did it with a runner after slightly straining a calf muscle. He is so much South Africa's best batsman at the moment that there is no one they could less afford to lose.

The West Indian ground fielding was as kindly as it can have been for a long time. But they held some good catches. Lara's backward cover, diving to his left for a hard slash by Hudson, was a brilliant effort, and he and Haynes both held on to awkwardly steep skiers.

Benjamin and Cummins

SOUTH AFRICA	
K C Wessels c Lara b Cummins	22
A C Hudson c Wessels b Marshall	56
P N Kirsten c Wessels b Marshall	10
A P Kuiper b Ambrose	23
J N Rhodes c Wessels b Cummins	22
B M Maitland c Lara b Benjamin	20
D J Richardson not out	20
R P Small c Haynes b Ambrose	3
M W Pringle not out	5
Extras (b 6, w 3, nb 7)	18
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)	220
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-22, 3-73, 4-118, 5-127, 6-158, 7-181, 8-187.	
A A Donald did not bat.	
BOWLING: Ambrose 10-1-34-2; Marshall 10-1-28-2; Benjamin 10-0-47-1; Cummins 10-0-40-2; Hooper 10-0-45-1.	
WEST INDIES	
D L Haynes c Richardson b Kuiper	20
G C Lara c Rhodes b Pringle	9
R B Richardson b Pringle	1
C L Hooper c Wessels b Pringle	1
A L Tait c Wessels b Pringle	1
A L Lople c Pringle b Kuiper	6
M D Marshall c Rhodes b Small	6
C E L Ambrose not out	12
G Cummins c Maitland b Donald	1
W K M Benjamin not out	1
Extras (b 6, w 1)	10
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)	108
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-16, 3-16, 4-18, 5-70, 6-70, 7-116, 8-117, 9-132.	
SLOW INGS: Donald 6-4-2-13-1; Pringle 8-4-1-4; Maitland 8-3-3-8; Small 7-3-16-2; Kuiper 9-0-51-2.	
Man of the match: M W Pringle.	
Umpires: B L Addicks (New Zealand) and S G Randell (Australia).	

are not to be compared with any of the great West Indian fast bowlers of recent years, and it does not come naturally to Ambrose to have to pitch the ball up, as he must in one-day cricket.

Before the World Cup started, South Africa felt they should beat New Zealand and Sri Lanka, but that they might struggle against Australia and West Indies. If their first three matches had gone against such expectations, it seemed unlikely that this one would when West Indies went in needing to score at only four runs an over to win and Lara soon thumped Pringle twice to the cover boundary.

But this was to be Pringle's day. He was a little lucky to be playing at all, having taken no wicket for 52 against Australia in his only previous match in the competition. Also, he must still have been wondering how to recover the quite substantial sum of money the management had advanced him to ring up his girlfriend, but which he had dropped down the hotel lift shaft.

He is, I am assured, somewhat accident-prone, and the omens were, to say the least, unpromising but, by pitching the ball up and seaming it around, he removed Lara, Richardson, Hooper and Arthurton in 11 balls.

In the ordinary way, it is when West Indies bowl that a pitch looks suddenly to have got mysteriously faster and more difficult. This time, the reverse was the case.

Where the West Indians had hardly moved the ball about at all, the South Africans swung it all over the place. The pitch, what is more, seemed to have quickened up, and so, as the adrenalin began to flow, did Pringle.

While 25 balls were being bowled, West Indies went from 19 for one to 19 for four, an astonishing passage of play. Rhodes held a marvellous catch down by his feet at cover point to get rid of Lara, Wessels held two at slip, and McMillan a very good one alongside him.

Haynes had to retire for a while after being hit more than once on the finger, and only Logie attacked the bowling as though to master it.

West Indies may not be much of a side these days — they have now won only eight of their last 29 one-day internationals — but let nothing detract from such a South African achievement.

Greatbatch ready to keep wicket

Auckland: Ian Smith, the New Zealand wicketkeeper, may miss the World Cup match against West Indies in Auckland tomorrow. He dislocated the little finger of his left hand against Zimbabwe on Monday and was unable to play an active role at yesterday's team practice.

Mark Greatbatch, who has limited experience of keeping wicket, will probably deputise if Smith is ruled out. But Martin Crowe, the New Zealand captain, said he would wait until just before the game before making a decision on Smith's fitness.

New Zealand, who head the World Cup table by a point, will be strengthened by the return of John Wright to open the innings. He showed no signs of his recent shoulder injury while batting at the nets.

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Display delights Dexter

ENGLAND'S performance in their eight-wicket victory over Australia in Sydney yesterday drew high praise from Ted Dexter, the chairman of the England selectors.

"The performance in Melbourne when we beat West Indies was the best I'd seen from us but, if anything, yesterday's effort was a touch higher still, and this was a bigger occasion," he said. "It is very exciting, particularly when you think back to what was happening 12 months ago. I'm thrilled to

see players we have kept faith with and others that we have brought along in top-class performances."

"The first half of the qualifying programme looked like the hard part and we have come through that with flying colours. But I'm sure there won't be any relaxing now."

Ian Botham, who started Australia's decline by bowling Allan Border, the Australia captain, between bat and pad, said, tongue in cheek: "Allan got a good ball, he was unlucky. Then they started

playing to my field — that's the way it goes in one-day cricket." Botham won the man-of-the-match award by taking four wickets in seven balls, and following up with a typically hard-hit 53 off 79 balls.

Together with Graham Gooch, the captain, Botham put on 107 for the first wicket in 24 overs, and by the end, Australia looked thoroughly bedraggled as England won with nine overs to spare to reinforce their position as World Cup favourites.

Injury blow for Hussain

FROM RICHARD STREETON IN ST GEORGE'S, GRENADA

ENGLAND A had another serious injury setback when Nasser Hussain suffered a hairline fracture of his right index finger as he batted in the win against Barbados on Wednesday. At the earliest, Hussain will not play again before the second unofficial Test match starts in St Vincent on March 21.

No replacement is being sought but Stephen Coverdale, the tour manager, is contacting both the Test and County Cricket Board in London and England team officials in Australia to ask for an emergency replacement to be put on stand-by. One possibility could be to utilise someone in the MCC party touring the Leeward Islands.

Alan Fordham, of Northamptonshire, or Graham Cowdrey, of Kent, would be obvious candidates in the MCC team should England A have any further injuries

during the hectic programme they will undertake in the next two weeks. "It would certainly be something of a crisis if anyone else was hurt among the batsmen," Coverdale said.

Keith Fletcher, the team manager, said Hussain was a vital cog for England, as much for his fielding as for his batting. Marvyn Monro, who fractured his left thumb in Bermuda, and Hussain had been the team's specialist catchers at first and second slip. "This badly affects our fielding," Fletcher said.

Hussain will have a second x-ray when the team reaches Trinidad next week to see how quickly his finger is healing. Should Hussain be unable to play in the second Test match, only the third Test in Barbados from March 28 to 31 remains on the tour itinerary.

Hussain is an unlucky

cricketer. Two years ago on England's senior tour to the Caribbean he fractured his left wrist playing tennis in Guyana.

England start a three-day game here today with the Windward Islands, who finished bottom of the Red Stripe Cup tournament.

Morris, the captain, and Pick could both be available after injury but the side will not be finalised until shortly before the start.

BARBADOS: 171 for 9 (50 overs); P A Wallace 50.

ENGLAND A	
D J McDonald b Drakes	44
J P Stephenson b Drakes	6
M R Parnell c Drakes b Wallace	14
N Hussain retired hurt	1
P Thompson c Wall b Drakes	50
P P Thomas not out	7
Extras (b 1, lb 7, w 4, nb 2)	14
Total (4 wickets, 50 overs)	171
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-38, 2-72, 3-72, 4-161.	
D G Cook, D K Selinger, T A Munton, D E Malcolm to bat.	
BOWLING: Drakes 10-0-36-1; Gibson 10-2-40-2; Wallace 10-0-48-1; Drakes 10-2-27-2; Best 8-0-20-0; Parnell 10-1-17-0.	
Umpires: D Archer and L Barker.	

FRIDAY MARCH 6 1992

Hosts reduced to a rabble as England take decisive step towards cricket World Cup semi-finals

Botham puts Australia on the rack

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN SYDNEY

THE most daunting obstacle barring England's path to the cricket World Cup semi-finals was an inferiority complex. Yesterday in Sydney, the anxiety was confronted and conquered. Australia no longer hold any fears for them and neither does the winning of the cup.

It was only a year ago that England travelled the length and breadth of this country without winning a game of any sort against Australia. By the end of it, Graham Gooch's team was a dispirited rabble but, yesterday, the description could apply to the Australians.

The desecrating din of a capacity crowd of 39,000 was reduced to moody silence, save for the chanting of England's gloating supporters, as Australia came up against an old tormentor in Ian Botham. Even Allan Border, whose regard for Botham's ability has never wavered, cannot have imagined his old friend and rival had another performance like this in his locker.

Botham destroyed the Australian batting by taking four wickets in seven balls. He then strode out to open the England innings and smote 53 out of a century stand with his captain, putting this pivotal match beyond recall.

It was the inspired cricket of a giant revived from sleep. Its effect was to rush England to an absurdly easy eight-wicket win, with 9.1 overs in hand, and to increase the possibility that Australia will not qualify for the last four. England, at 5-4, are the new favourites.

Once Botham had gone, the rest of the game was so academic it was dreary, but this is the paradox of England in their present mood. The better a team performs in one-day cricket, the more outclassed is the opposition and the more tedious the spectacle.

Micky Stewart, the team manager, said later that the sheer stature of the match had worried him. "It was a stage game, a genuinely big game, and I wondered how our players would react. But they have all done it well. They performed the same way they have done since we left England in December."

That way, as successive opponents have come to know, is ruthlessly professional. Now, unbeaten after prob-

	P	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
New Zealand	4	4	0	0	8	+1.08
England	4	3	0	1	7	+0.05
South Africa	4	2	1	1	5	-0.02
West Indies	4	2	2	0	4	-0.10
India	4	1	3	0	2	-0.29
Pakistan	4	1	2	1	2	-0.03
Australia	4	1	2	1	2	-0.04
Zimbabwe	4	0	4	0	0	-1.06

Net run-rate (NRR) is the difference between batting and bowling rates. Runs scored in no-result matches are not included. The top four teams qualify for semi-finals.

by the tougher half of their group games, England trail New Zealand on points only because rain denied them victory over Pakistan. Australia, meanwhile, have only the pointless Zimbabwe keeping them off the bottom.

Border, reviewing the situation last night, said: "We need England and New Zealand to keep winning and then a few other results to go our way. But to get through now, we have got to win the rest of our games and win them well."

At first, this heavily hyped game went the way of the hosts. Border won the toss and followed his usual policy of batting, and England were obliged to field in the draining humidity of the afternoon. Australia had dropped Marsh and promoted Moody to open. That part of the deal worked well enough, but Moody's partner, Mark Taylor, fell to Pringle without scoring and Boon, their form player, was run out at the non-striker's end for the second time on this ground in eight days.

The pitch was faster than most seen at Sydney, however, and Moody's third-wicket stand with Jones pulled the innings round. Indeed, at 106 for two in the 28th over, Australia were looking at a total in excess of 250, and then the collapse started. Jones carved DeFreitas hard and fast to cover and Lewis dived to take a sensational



Lewis: stunning catch

catch. Tufnell, whose length was generally too short, then bowled Moody off his glove as he swept but Border and Steve Waugh patched up the damage with a care developed by hundreds of such encounters. Twelve overs and two balls remained and the total read 145 for four as Botham took the game for his own.

He found the ideal inswinger for Border, who has been a candidate for that delivery all winter, and then, with a pause of a dot ball on each occasion, he had Healy and McDermott caught from reckless swings and Peter Taylor leg-before. The dainty, hip-wiggling dance routine he has adopted for this tour sufficed for the first three wickets; the last was greeted by the full-blooded Botham of old, leaping and punching the air in uncomplicated joy.

Australia managed to bat through another ten overs but scored only ten more runs. Waugh, who had viewed the wreckage from the other end with his usual lack of expression, ran himself out trying to farm the strike, and the final score of 171 was only one run more than Australia's total against South Africa here last week.

It was inadequate then and it was inadequate now, though by the way McDermott bowled the opening over, it was impossible to be confident. Gooch did not make contact with a single ball, and if one gives him the benefit of withdrawing the bat from more than one, he was beaten at least three times.

The crowd was howling at this last, desperate throw. The Australians were visibly pumped up. It took Botham to puncture them, uppercutting McDermott to the third-man boundary, then crashing two successive balls from Reid through cover for four. Early in the piece it may have been, but that was the beginning of the end.

Botham had batted 31 overs for 23 runs in the previous three games. Now, he did the job for which he was installed, and within ten overs England had scored 55. There was no further need for rush, nor any further need for the man-of-the-match adjudicator to ponder. He had his man and England had their most gratifying win yet.

Phil Tufnell missed England's victory celebrations after being admitted to hospital. The England physiotherapist, Lawrie Brown, described Tufnell's condition as "a kind of nervous colic".

Botham's triumph, page 1
Richards reflects, page 30
West Indies stumble, page 30



Australia on the run: Stewart begins to celebrate as Steve Waugh fails to beat DeFreitas's return

Australia won toss

	Bats	Runs	Wickets	Extras	Min	Max
M A Taylor lbw b Pringle	0	0	0	11	11	11
D C Boon run out (Fairbrother)	18	0	2	20	27	27
D M Jones c Lewis b DeFreitas	22	0	2	78	46	46
S R Waugh run out (DeFreitas-Stewart)	27	0	2	66	43	43
A R Border b Botham	18	0	1	30	22	22
P L Taylor lbw b Botham	9	1	0	6	7	7
N H Fairbrother c DeFreitas b Botham	0	0	0	2	2	2
C J McDermott c DeFreitas b Botham	8	0	1	25	27	27
M R Whitney not out	1	0	0	21	21	21
B A Reid b Reave	1	0	0	21	21	21
Bates (b 2, lb 8, w 5 nb 4)	19					
Total (49 overs, 208 min)	171					

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5 (Moody 3, 2-35 (Moody 12, 3-105 (Moody 50, 4-114 (Waugh 7), 5-145 (Waugh 23), 6-155 (Waugh 23), 7-155 (Waugh 23), 8-155 (Waugh 23), 9-164 (Whitney 5).

BOWLING: Pringle 5-1-24-1 (nb 4, w 1) (7-0-23-1, 2-1-1-0); Lewis 10-5-28-0 (w 2) (6-0-24-0, 4-2-4-0); Fairbrother 10-5-29-1 (w 1) (one out); Botham 10-1-31-4 (w 1) (4-0-15-0, 6-1-15-4); Tufnell 8-0-22-1 (nb 1) (one out); Reave 1-0-3-1.

INTERMEDIATE SCORES: 10 overs: 36 runs, 20: 66, 30: 114, 40: 156. Moody's 50 came in 118 min, 55 balls, 5 fours.

	Bats	Runs	Wickets	Extras	Min	Max
G A Hick not out	7	0	1	13	5	5
Edwards (b 13, w 8, nb 4)	25					
Total (2 wickets 40.5 overs, 171 min)	178					

N H Fairbrother, J A J Stewart, D A Reave, C C Lewis, D R Pringle, P A J DeFreitas and P C R Tufnell did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-107 (Gooch 55), 2-163 (Bath 17), 3-163 (Gooch 55), 4-163 (Gooch 55), 5-163 (Gooch 55), 6-163 (Gooch 55), 7-163 (Gooch 55), 8-163 (Gooch 55), 9-163 (Gooch 55), 10-163 (Gooch 55).

Man of the match: I T Botham (adjudicator: S P O'Donnell).
Umpires: S Bucknor (West Indies) and Khizer Hayat (Pakistan).

Call for betting to assist sport

BY JOHN GOODBODY

THE Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR) yesterday sent letters to the government calling for the levy on horse racing to be extended to other sports which bets are placed, such as greyhound racing, tennis, cricket and boxing.

By statute, horse racing receives a £35.5 million contribution from the bookmakers, approximately one per cent of all off-course bets staked on the sport.

Peter Lawson, the secretary of the CCPR, which represents the national governing bodies of sports, said that a similar levy was applied to all other sports-related bets but this was retained by the bookmakers. "Greyhound racing alone is deprived of £11 million, while the other sports between them are entitled to £6 million."

Betting on major events has increased in recent years and Tony Brown, the administrative secretary of the Test and County Cricket Board, said: "I am sure people are betting left, right and centre on the World Cup but cricket is receiving no benefit."

Lawson said that the CCPR would like to see a levy board arrangement for other sports to distribute the money, as already occurs in horse racing. Greyhound racing does get £3.5 million from the off-course bookmakers, but this money goes to help 12 tracks, five of which are owned by the big three bookmakers, Ladbrokes, William

Hills and Coral.

Tom Kelly, the chief executive of the Betting Office Licences Association, said that the CCPR was not the first sports body to have identified a "mythical pot of gold at the end of the betting rainbow", and said that it was "totally inaccurate" that £17 million was being absorbed into the off-course bookmaking industry's profits.

He said: "The CCPR has failed to understand the impact of overall taxation on the off-course industry; nor has it taken into consideration the fees already paid by bookmakers to greyhound stadia and the football leagues. The deduction is, in fact, a term of trade between the bookmaker and his customer and should not be the concern of other parties. An off-course levy at the rates advocated by the CCPR would inevitably lead to an increase in deductions."



Lawson: seeks funds

Harmony reigns amid Genoa's hospitality

BY ROGAN TAYLOR

WHEN I arrived at the brief skirmish which took place between a handful of Liverpool and Genoa supporters on Wednesday night, the Carabinieri were already sequestering the visitors away. The most vigorous exchanges were taking place between the majority of local supporters who were keen to restrain the few hooligans in their midst. There were no arrests and the Liverpool followers were soon escorted into the ground.

Official representatives of the Liverpool supporters were on the spot immediately in company with one of the Genoa "Ultras" supporters leaders, whom they had met the previous day. The Merseyside branch of the Football Supporters' Association (FSA) had deputised Paul Hyland and Liz Crolley to travel to Genoa the day before the game to meet local councillors, police and leading supporters in an imaginative move to foster good relations. Liverpool supported the initiative and the club's community officer, Brian Hall, a former Liverpool player from the 1970s, accompanied the FSA representatives to the meetings.

The initiative certainly paid off. On the morning of the match, the nation's largest selling daily, the *Gazzetta dello Sport*, produced the most favourable comments about English supporters seen in Italy since 1985. Under a headline that read:

Genoa finds new friends; and they are English, the piece recorded the sincerity and directness of the FSA's Liverpool representatives in their meetings with local people. Crolley, who holds an Anfield season ticket and speaks impressive Italian, was interviewed so frequently on local and national television that she was constantly recognised by local supporters outside the Luigi Ferraris stadium on the day of the match.

Contact with the Genoa Council and local supporters' organisations had been initially established by football researchers at Leicester and Milan universities — an example of one of the more practical outcomes of academic conferences. A band playing Beatles songs greeted the incoming coaches of Liverpool supporters and leaflets which welcomed them were distributed describing the efforts made by local people to create a good atmosphere for the game.

A special free edition of the Genoa fanzine, produced by the Fossa dei Grifoni — the equivalent of the Kop or Stretford End — was printed in English and Italian for the occasion. It welcomed the Liverpool supporters "to the most English city in Italy", reminding them that Genoa is Italy's oldest football club, originating in 1893 when "Sir James Spencer together with a small group of gallant men came ashore with 17

fantastic rules and the will to teach us the best game in the world."

In addition to the spectacular display of flags, fireworks (the "chorography") and an enormous banner almost the size of the pitch which read: We are Genoa, the "Ultras" groups of supporters organised a special laser light show. The evening prior to the match, the FSA representatives had been conducted around the impressive yet intimate stadium by those rehearsing the performance. Later, that evening, as guests of the Coordinamento Club of Genoa — the oldest supporters club network in Italy — Liverpool representatives ate a six-course meal after receiving gifts.

For the Genoa club and its supporters the match against Liverpool was the most significant for 50 years. On the advertisement detailing the coach trips to Liverpool via Paris and London for the return leg on March 18, the list of attractions included: the Moulin Rouge; the Folies Bergere; Buckingham Palace and the Tower of London. But in the boldest lettering of all stood out the prime site of interest: Anfield Road.

Rogan Taylor works at the Centre for Football Research at Leicester University. His book, *Football and its Fans*, will be published by Leicester University Press in May.

A toast to those calling it a day

BY ROB ANDREW

WHICHEVER way you look at it, tomorrow at Twickenham sees the end of an era. It seems that at least three of the rugby union players who have been with England through lean and successful times may be going to retire.

Those players will be able to say that they helped England achieve something, and their greatest achievement, an enormous one in my view, is that England should never again suffer continuous failure.

Until they make their announcement, we will not know who is going. But given the number of rumours within the squad about players perhaps feeling they would like one last hurrah, against South Africa in November, I am no longer certain that there will be quite so many withdrawals as has been suggested.

I suspect that one or two may hang on until the game with South Africa and, if they stay that long, they might see out one last five nations' season.

I will not be among those retiring because I want to carry on playing rugby to a high standard in France. And if I am to do that I want to be challenging for an international place. But whatever the outcome of our bid for a second successive grand slam my primary thoughts tomorrow night will be for those who are stepping down. Some suffered the bad times of English rugby from 1984 to 1988; but they stuck around.

The job is not yet finished. It has been suggested that England need only turn up at Twickenham to complete another grand slam. I can tell you that no such assumption is being made. We remember what happened at Edinburgh in 1990.

We got it badly wrong that day and in the week building up to it. It cost us a grand slam. We also made a mess of things when we



Cooke: has fine record

played Wales at Cardiff in 1989 with the championship at stake.

The end of our championship season should also mark the reappointment of Geoff Cooke as England manager. He has done a phenomenal job; his achievements have been immense. He has brought continuity to it all he has done and his results must be unprecedented in modern times.

Although we are within one match of another grand slam, we do not feel we have played as well as last year. I believe that is chiefly due to the loss of Ackford and Teague. It is only when you are without certain people you begin to realise just how good they were.

The forward unit is very, very important at this level. You do not replace overnight the experience of people like Dooley and Winterbottom, no matter how good the youngsters. But we have been fortunate that others, like Bayfield, have been introduced while there were still time to learn from the senior men.

The England B team is going well and the talent is undoubtedly there. We should always have players coming through, so that although there will be the odd setback, I believe England can largely continue in this successful vein.

That will be the legacy of those who do decide to retire after tomorrow.
Interview by Peter Bills



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ARTS
What Vincent
Van Gogh
learnt from
England



LIFE & TIMES

FRIDAY MARCH 6 1992



HEALTH
Mothers who
serve hard
labour in
childbirth

This old man comes ranting home

JONATHAN PLAYER

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



Anthony Burgess,
author, composer,
polymath, polyglot,
was 75 this week
and remains as full
of bile about
Britain as ever

This is no country for old men. But how they love to come back and rubbish it when they've got the hell out. This week Londoners got another earful of Damn You England-style vitriol from Anthony Burgess, on the why-oh-why page of the *Evening Standard*, headed "Why I'm ashamed of sad, drab, vulgar Britain."

Life would be grey indeed without these aged seers to tell us we have seen the best of our time. Press a button, and their bilious words spill out, but they live well above it all. Like John Osborne's, Mr Burgess's diatribes about "our unhappy kingdom" have a well-rehearsed ring.

He bemoans the loose Americanisms of demotic speech. The misuse of "hopefully". The "baffling" young, who "do not seem to belong to the human race". Girls' lack of allure. The price of a pint. London's boxy buildings and vulgar hoardings. Our political leaders: "John Major, mediocrity's monument, faces Neil Kinnock, a perfect con man." We lack popular philosophers; we lack, above all, genius. It is classic "They were giants in their days" stuff. Sounds like this becomany dead needs a bolshy toshchik in the keeshkas, eh drooger?

Armed with his outpourings I went to his smoke-filled suite at the Savoy. He invoked the names of G.B. Shaw, Bertrand Russell, Arnold Bennett. "Instead of these blasted TV people, Esther Rantzen, Clive James, Melvyn Bragg, who are 'not good enough'. Then why not come back and be a giant among them? He said that was not his line. "Can you see Shaw on Wogan? He'd take it over. He'd say, [broad Irish brogue] let me talk to the people! There's no genius, no flow of interesting ideas. Ah splendid, here is tea. Have a scone with cream."

Like Osborne's, his animus is concealed in benign conviviality. The previous night, his 75th birthday had been celebrated among congenial company that included John Mortimer, Auberon Waugh, Victoria Glendinning. Mr Burgess was forthcoming. He entertained the table by settling old scores and past slights. Never mind that nobody recalls these except Mr Burgess: they rankle with him still. Between puffs on his panatellas he went through his list: Graham Greene, Jimmy Saville, the late Geoffrey Grogan, Charles Osborne. Osborne had once listed the three most overrated books as *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, *She Stoops to Conquer* and "whatever has most recently dropped heavily from the pen of Anthony Burgess". This old man does not forget.

Of course he is right about cultural decline. But his own life is irretrievably distanced from it. He says everything depends on education, but he has not been inside a school for years. So he cannot collect firsthand evidence, but he suspects that the eccentric, enthusiastic, slightly mad types who once taught, are gone, and a mediocre syllabus rules. "I was very lucky in my school. The



The voluntary exile back, temporarily, in Britain: will Anthony Burgess return to be a giant in his native land? Not while there is sloppy speech, paltry television punditry, and rock 'n' roll

library was full of authors like Koebehuhe." This was the Xaverian College in Manchester. The fierce brothers taught him Latin, but he also taught himself Greek. He found language fun. "We used to translate 'I say tomato, you say tomaty-to' into Latin, *Dico ego pomum, dicit tu phonomum*."

That's Burgess, man and boy: scholarship ever on display. It exasperates him that he cannot take for granted that readers will understand musical terms: *tritone*, *tonic*, *dominant*; he was furious when a supposedly educated man was stumped by the opening sentence of his novel, *Earthly Powers*: "It was the afternoon of my 81st birthday, and I was in bed with my catamite..." "Catamite's a common enough word," said Mr Burgess in scorn. "Surely he knows Latin? He can't resist challenging us with *idioclect*, *palinologue*, *autophagous*, *opusculum*, *desquamation*, *lesbic*, *allomorpha*, *monophthongal*, *autocephalous*, *inesculent*, *strabismus*, words one got by happily without until reading him."

A telephone rings. It is Dino di Laurentis, the film producer, wanting Mr Burgess to write one of the biblical films he is planning. "I say yes, with pleasure, but let us have a contract. *Un contratto*." He will do the story of Judith and Holofernes. "You remember, she invited Holofernes to supper and an evening of love, then cut his head off, a very feminist thing." He adds references to Caravaggio's painting, Shakespeare calling his daughter Judith, the character Holofernes in *Love's Labour's Lost*. "Holofernes was the name for the penis, you know."

Is there anything that Mr Burgess does not know?

"No, I don't know enough at all." On the contrary, he knows too much for comfort. When he describes a room as "full of odd

knicknacks" he cannot forbear to add "strange that the Hebrew *naknik* should mean a sausage). "That's echoism," he said. "Joyce is full of echoism. It's not liked, generally." Such omniscience may adorn, but sometimes afflicts, his prose. Writing about schooldays and *cronies*, he has to add, "who, true to the etymology *chronos*, sustained friendship chronically..." This is showing off. I rather enjoy it, but it irritates some to screaming point. A mind so openly laden with cross-references and philological curiosities does not fit a man for the popular novelist's trade, he says so himself: he is tormented by a memory he cannot control. "I can't remember a line of Goethe, but I remember every line of Cole Porter." And enough lines of Anglo-Saxon to discourse with Jorge Luis Borges in it.

He had spent the morning "having a go at Greene" for a BBC programme. He had made the point that a character in Greene's *Monsieur Quixote* had put a body in the boot of a Seat. "But the Seat has no boot! His Spanish translator was literally crying about it. Yes, Greene would get very touchy if you corrected him. And he put carrots into a Lancashire hotpot in *The Human Factor*."

He and Greene were neighbours in exile, one a cradle Catholic, the other a convert. Mr Burgess disapproved of Greene living with another man's wife, but they maintained a guarded friendship ("I never gave him a review less than fawningly adulatory," Mr Burgess said.) He asked Greene at their last lunch, what he missed most about England. "Sausages," Greene replied.

In comes Mrs Burgess, alias the contessa, Liana. "Antonio! Antonio! Who is the man of the deep structure I always forget?" "Chomsky," supplies Mr Burgess. The story of his marriage to this dark Italian lady, as told in volume two of his confessions, is extraordinary. She was living in London,

He is right about cultural decline. But his own life is distanced from it. He says everything depends on education, but he has not been inside a school for years

translating, and teaching linguistics, when they met. She admired his work. "We made love," he says, "and then she disappeared, went to Paris. And then four years later I discovered I had a son." Why did she never tell him she was pregnant? "Well, I was still married, my first wife was dying, killing herself with drink, cirrhosis. That was pretty hellish. I've not really told the half of the story. She would insist on going out, and cause tremendous rows and upheavals and she would hit people and so on. The Welsh can't take drink you know."

When the first wife, Lynne, died, Liana turned up and told him about their son, now aged three. "I said, heavens, we must marry. And she said no! I had a very difficult job to persuade her." Liana explains, "I wanted to be an unmarried mother. I was my own business. I was a pioneer in many things. Especially as an Italian who has suffered so much at the hands of the Catholic church." Mr Burgess convinced her that he needed someone to leave his copyrights to, so she "saw the point" of marriage. They are polar opposites. She is noisy, volatile, voluble. They argue constantly.

"Antonio! Antonio! My pun is that in Italy, *story* and *history* is the same word." "Yes very good," he mutters patiently. "Contradiction is a good mar-

riage. Agreement, dead marriage," aphorises Liana. "We have a *dialectical* marriage," says Antonio, long-sufferingly.

He translates his work, negotiates on the telephone, chases up his royalties from villainous foreign publishers, drives (he does not drive) and looms large in all interviews. They are inseparable. But there is a clash of wills between them over having a photograph taken & dear.

"I am not part of Anthony and his life! Am I not my own woman?" "You're not an appendage, quite right."

Mr Burgess mollifies the photographer: "Good afternoon sir! Piece of cake! What part of the world are you from? West London way? Have a scone." I tell Liana she would be a picturesque foil to her husband's tall grey gauntness, being short, voluptuous, with black Latin eyes and those bright red and orange flower-clips in her hair ("Antonio loves long hair") but she is adamant. She cites Heraclitus for some reason, and expresses horror at the frozen crystallised moment of a photograph. "No, no, NO." What a fuss! She always gets angry about it. I personally would be delighted. But she has very strong views.

Mr Burgess is far from being a prophet without honour in his native land. He has been made a

Companion of Literature. "Kathleen Raine refused it. Didn't want to be among these vulgar people who write for money, meaning me. Lord Jenkins presented it. He's a bit of a pain: calls me Guy Burgess."

"But it's very kind of them to give it. What it means is that you're not going to be given anything else. You're not going to be made into a knight. Not if you live abroad. P.G. Wodehouse had to wait until he was 90. Noël Coward got it when he was dying. But when you think that Jimmy Saville has it, you just don't want it, God forbid."

Far better stay in Monaco, though pestered by too many Americans with rucksacks, retreating to Lugano now and then. He is a pillar of Monaco society, "not so gay or glamorous since the death of Princess Grace".

In the Rue Grimaldi he produces his 1,000 words a day; never getting to the point where he feels he has mastered the art of writing. "I have been without a salary for the last 30 years and one still has to go on working." His weary dismissal of most contemporary writing — "it's all right, but once you've read it you've forgotten it, nothing's terribly important" — comes from reviewing so much. He gets sent books nobody else wants, like the new Erich Segal, or a history of the internal combustion engine. He notes a lack of humour in contemporary writers: Martin Amis, A.S. Byatt.

"Amis is a clever young man, but I find no comfort in the world he describes, no humour, no irony. Antonia Byatt has womanly gifts. Most women writers do, with exceptions like Anita Brookner." It is "a symptom of age" that he returns to Dickens, Conrad, Joyce and Trollope; also Sinclair Lewis and Herman Wouk.

Once he had the manuscript of a complete book stolen, while taking it to be photocopied. "So I sat down and wrote it again. I

thought, well, I'll do it better the second time, like Caryl Phillips and the French Revolution."

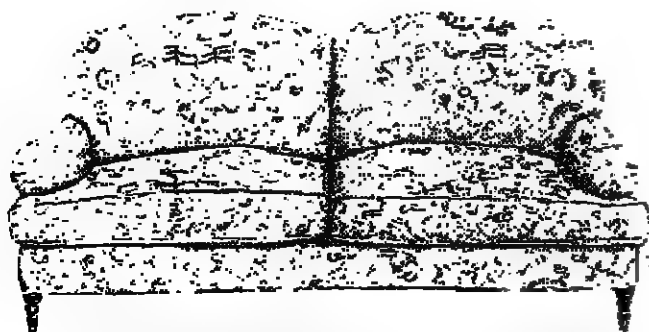
His great *jeu d'esprit*, *A Clockwork Orange*, or *L'Anarcia Meccanica*, as he refers to it, was "an aberration", he says dismissively; after the film it had become Stanley Kubrick's property, and Kubrick kept it from the British public. "It became popular for the wrong reasons, because it was about violence, people love that kind of thing. It's very annoying. They always pick on one damn book, like *Lucky Jim*. Now they read it in schools in America, it's in its 27th printing over there. I've never seen any money. Something wrong somewhere. I have been screwed. I'm infinitely screwable." He only got a percentage of the film after taking the producers to court. "It's a dirty business. You've got to keep out of films if you can."

Mr Burgess has written his most brilliant work: his two volumes of autobiography. But he will be back soon, with a novel on Christopher Marlowe, and a book called *A Mouthful of Air*, on the language children should be taught in school. "If only I could get the Prince of Wales to write a preface, but he's very busy talking about cheese". Having left Britain for its depressing youth culture, what he really mourns is a feeling of any respect for his type, the polymathic polyglot. He is right: there is nobody else quite like him; and what is that uniqueness but a mad, tormented genius?

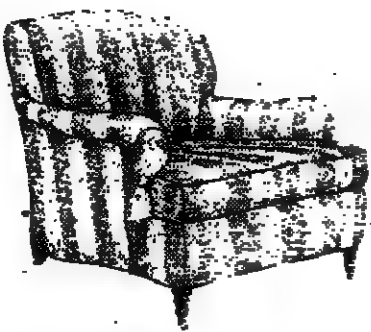
"Sounds like the mad old man needs a big kick in the guts, eh friends?" in Nadsat, Clockwork Orangespeak.

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Health	5
Motoring	7
Law Report	9
TV, radio	10

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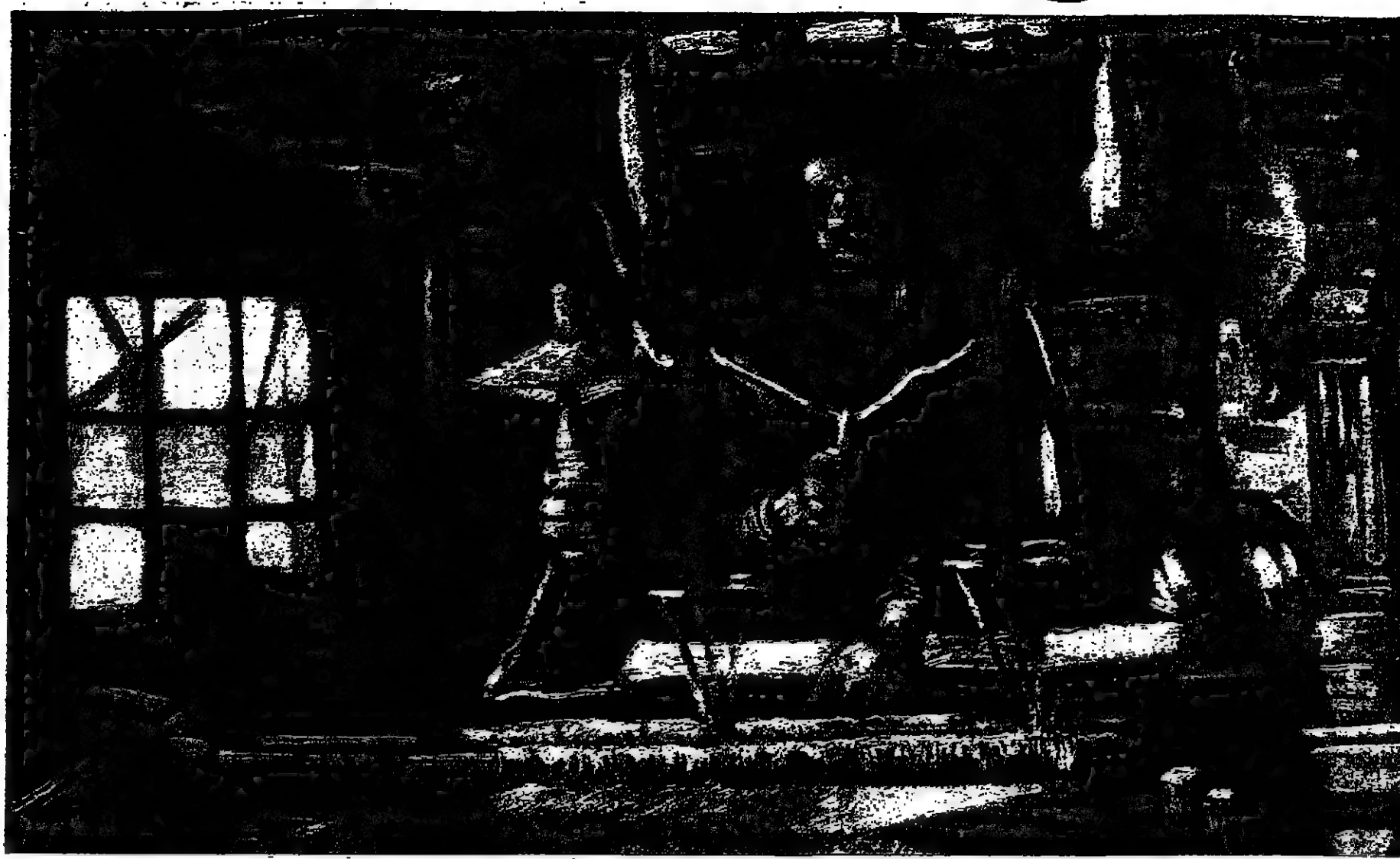
Richard Cork on an exhibition revealing how Van Gogh's three years in England inspired his later work

Battered and streaked with mud, a pair of bulky black boots dominate the first painting in the Barbican Art Gallery's survey of Van Gogh in England. They look misshapen enough to be discarded. But the crisp, stabbing energy of Vincent's brushwork implies that they are still roadworthy. For this is the footwear of an artist committed to journeying. He thought nothing of walking 100 miles from Ramsgate to Welwyn, and his fondness for the boots will ensure that he uses them until they collapse.

The painting's emblematic power sums up the dogged resolve of the young man who came to London in May 1873. But the fact that *A Pair of Boots* was painted more than a decade later indicates the challenge confronting anyone organising an exhibition about Van Gogh's three-year stay in this country. Apart from a few tentative drawings, he produced no art during this formative period. So how can a show convey the significance of his English sojourn without the assistance of his own contemporary paintings?

The answer soon becomes absorbingly clear. Although the 20-year-old pastor's son had not committed himself to an artist's life when he arrived in London, Van Gogh was already voraciously feeding off visual images. Working at Goupil's, a prominent picture dealer, gave him daily access to paintings, engravings and photographic reproductions he admired. Jacob Maris's *A Drawbridge* exemplifies the kind of picture Goupil's sold, and it bears an intriguing resemblance to Van Gogh's later paintings of the Langlois drawbridge in Arles.

The rest of the Barbican survey proves that the pictures Vincent admired in England had a slow-burning effect, finally igniting his imagination years after he saw them. The most important of these images have been reassembled here, in a deliberately crowded section with deep red walls which evokes the displays favoured at the Royal Academy when Van Gogh visited them. The images he liked



Echoes of English social realism: Vincent Van Gogh's *Interior with Weaver*, 1884, on loan from Museum Boymans-van Bueren, Rotterdam, to the Barbican

did not, surprisingly, adhere to the social realist thinking which later fired his paintings of weavers and peasant life. At this stage, Vincent's religious fervour inclined him towards pictures such as George Boughton's *God Speed!*. Exhibited at the Academy in 1874, this winsome canvas shows a pilgrim setting out on a journey through an evening landscape, punctuated by self-consciously poetic birch and pine trees.

To our eyes, it is nothing more than a cloaking exercise in pious piety. Van Gogh, however, thought otherwise. "Truly," he wrote to his brother Theo, "it is not a picture but an inspiration."

Another work to excite Van Gogh's enthusiasm in England was Gustave Doré's richly illustrated *A Pilgrimage*, where the pictures take the reader on a nightmarish odyssey through a metropolis blighted by deprivation of the most distressing kind. Vincent's conscience was profoundly

affected by the poverty, overcrowding and despair he encountered on his own epic walks through the city.

While living a relatively cushioned existence on an annual salary of £90, he identified more and more with the most downcast members of society. Soon after seeing *God Speed!* he experienced wretchedness of his own as well. Having buried out his love for Eugénie Loyer, the daughter of his landlady at 87 Hackford Road, Brighton, Van Gogh was summarily rejected. He succumbed to depression.

Although he only decided to become an artist in the early 1880s, many of the preoccupations governing his mature work took root in England. The exhibition offers a fascinating and unfamiliar couple of paintings, from 1885 and 1886, in which he takes a lonely journey subject and charges it with potent pictorial conviction. In the end, however, the black-and-white engravings Van Gogh

found in *The Graphic* and the *Illustrated London News* provided a more direct source of inspiration for his work. The social realist images by Holl, Herkomer and Fildes, with their command of sinewy line and impassioned concern for the plight of the poor, corresponded with Vincent's hopes for his own art.

Ten years after his arrival in London, he purchased an almost complete run of *The Graphic* at auction in The Hague. "I have been looking at them far into the night," he wrote excitedly, describing how "all my memories of London came back to me... There is something stimulating and invigorating like old wine about those striking, powerful and virile drawings."

He cut out his favourite engravings and passed them on grey or brown paper. Still preserved in Amsterdam's Van Gogh Museum, they have been lent to the

Barbican and displayed alongside his early paintings of peasant heads. The links between Vincent's work and William Small's *The British Rough*, or Mathew Ridley's *The Miner*, are persuasive indeed. The heads culminated in his early masterpiece, *The Potato Eaters*, which can only be represented in the show by an outside colour reproduction.

The Barbican has, however, managed to borrow the most compelling of all his London-inspired paintings. At first sight, *Van Gogh's Chair* would seem to bear no relation to English illustrators at all. A simple straw-seated chair, it shows Vincent at his most sturdy and rough-hewn. The pipe and tobacco pouch add a homely feeling, but the dizzily up-ended floor, combined with the harsh contours of the tiles dividing its surface, convey a less reassuring emotion.

In this respect, the painting owes a debt to Luke Fildes's *The Empty Chair*, drawn in Charles Dickens's

study after the novelist's death. Van Gogh loved this picture, printed in *The Graphic*. Dickens was his favourite English writer, and he bought a copy of *The Empty Chair* after reading *Edwin Drood* in 1882. The pathos of the engraving prompted Vincent to tell Theo that "sooner or later there will be nothing but empty chairs in place of Herkomer, Luke Fildes, Frank Holl, William Small, etc."

In the light of those words, *Van Gogh's Chair* takes on a tragic significance. It was painted just before his suicide attempt, and within two years he would be dead himself. Maybe the severely depressed artist regarded the chair painting as his own memorial, as well as testifying to the nourishment of English images which he called "one of the highest and noblest expressions of art".

Van Gogh in England - Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, at the Barbican Art Gallery (071-638 4141) until May 4.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

● **BULGARIAN ART:** This extraordinary show of more than 200 works by 60 artists dazzles and confuses, since the pieces it contains, some brilliantly original, some repellent kitsch, firmly refuse categorisation. Gagliardi, 509 King's Road, London SW10 (071-352 3663). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, until May 23.

● **DENZIL FORRESTER:** At the end of a museum tour which has included Preston, Newcastle, Lincoln and Stirling, Forrester's show comes finally to London. It is rare for so young an artist (35) to be so extensively shown, but Forrester, who comes from Grenada, fully justifies it with powerful images, sometimes prismatically coloured, sometimes starkly monochromatic, reflecting his international background and his fascination with disco culture. Agi Katz Fine Art, Boundary Gallery, 98 Boundary Road, London NW8 (071-624 1126). Wed-Sat, 11am-6pm, until March 28.

● **BRICE MARDEN** - **PRINTS:** Emerging in New York in the Fifties, Marden was more or less obliged to be an Abstract Expressionist at the beginning of his career. But he soon moved to a more severe, minimalist style. His prints, many of the finest in black and white, go more or less in parallel with his paintings, and collectively make up one of the most important bodies of graphic work in recent American art. Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-821 1313). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2-5.30pm, until June 21.

● **EGGLESTON:** William Eggleston (born 1939) took up colour photography in the early Seventies. The attraction is the quality of his astonishing real/surreal images, which take on hallucinatory intensity from his principle that "one could treat the Lincoln Memorial and an anonymous street corner with the same amount of care and the resulting two pictures would be equal." Barbican Art Gallery, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 4141). Mon, Wed-Sat 10am-6.45pm, Tues 10-5.45pm, Sun 12-6.45pm, until May 4. Admission £4.50, concessions £2 (includes "Van Gogh in England").

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

OFFER

Royal Academy viewing

The Times invites readers to a private, early evening viewing, on March 20, of the Mantegna and Calder exhibitions.

Tickets (£8) are obtainable from The Times Promotions Department, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

TELEVISION REVIEW

Clearly, not all flesh is grass, at least in Cornwall

A bright moon illuminates a craggy Cornish coastal path; the sea boils and crashes on the rocks below. Two young cousins in evening clothes clutch one another in the moonlight, exhaustedly panting after a daring race along the cliffs. It is the summer of 1939, and the threat of war stuzzles in the air. Their bodies heave together (in close frontal contact) and the night seems set for love. But what's this? "Eek," says the glossy blonde girl, looking down. "Oliver, what's that?"

"It's me," he draws laconically, with a curled lip. "It's my cock. I've got an erection. I want to poke it into you."

Collapse of romantic expectations in viewers. Thank goodness Daphne du Maurier didn't live to see this day.

Last night's first instalment of Mary Wesley's *The Camomile Lawn* (Channel 4) was a perplexing affair, to be honest. For a story confessing to be "all about sex" it was certainly blunt (how often do you see the "woman being fitted with a diaphragm" scene?) but it was about as erotic as a powdered egg sandwich eaten under a gas mask. In two hours it established a score of vividly differentiated characters (mostly related to one another, in

complex ways) and gave a few heavy hints as to what would happen to them in the next 40 years.

But what was all the joyless sex about? Surely not just to make the point "We were all young once"? Or "We did it a lot in the war, because there was nothing on the telly"? Surely Sir Peter Hall would not go to all the bother and expense of recreating wartime station-platforms (sweat, bustle, people with labels on their coats) if the young protagonists of *The Camomile Lawn* are all so matter-of-fact about sex that they have no romance anywhere in their hearts?

We shall see what develops. In the meantime, there is plenty of plot to be going along with. The fact that the *dramatis personae* sounds like something from an Enid Blyton adventure (Aunt Helena and Uncle Richard; plus the cousins Oliver, Calypso, Polly, Walter, little Sophy, and not forgetting "the Twins") is more unhappy coincidence.

The heartless, beautiful Calypso (Jennifer Ehle) reacts to the outbreak of war by marrying a rich Scottish MP, and then flashing her lipstick at servicemen at the Savoy. The emotionally stunted Oliver (Toby Stephens) keeps turning



Helena (Felicity Kendal) and Richard (Paul Eddington)

up in London between dangerous campaigns and demanding, in vain, that Calypso sleep with him. And the cool no-nonsense Polly (Tara Fitzgerald) gets fitted with a diaphragm and starts using men for a crash course in sexual inquiry, possibly in pursuance of a credit in an Open University degree.

The only people shown actually enjoying sex are Aunt Helena (Felicity Kendal) and Max (Oliver Cotton) - but of course Max is an inspirational Austrian Jewish refugee violinist with wild frizzy hair, which obviously affords him the right. Also, poor Aunt Helena has been lumbered for 20 years with Uncle Richard (Paul Eddington), which explains why she is all pursed-up and ready for action. You see, Uncle Richard lost a leg in the Great War, and is prone to helpless blusterings, such as "I ask you!" and "If it weren't for My Leg!"

Searching deep into the sub-text, one suspects that this marks him as an unexciting lover. But on the other hand it also makes him one of the most enjoyable characters on screen, because his lines sound wittier than everyone

else's. "It seemed better for Sophy to be with a woman," he shrugs, when his wife speeds home to Cornwall (from London) in an emergency. "I can't do much, not with My Leg."

Is *The Camomile Lawn* about continuity between generations, or discontinuity? To judge from the marked differences in the performance styles, it is about the twain that not only never meet, but never exchange Christmas cards, either. The older characters - Helena, Richard, Max - are played in a robust naturalistic style, comfortable to television; while the young people (particularly Calypso and Oliver) seem to have stepped straight out of a Nicholas Craig masterclass for wartime British film acting, still waving the ink dry on their certificates. It is distinctly odd.

Jennifer Ehle is transfixing to look at, in a radiant, Meryl Streep kind of way; and she is surely the star of the show. But her affected Celia Johnson accent ("I'm not a girl who *ken* love") can soon start to drive you bananas.

LYNNE TRUSS

ROCK RECORDS

Box makes a good case

Contenders for the title of most reviled person in rock are not thin on the ground but Yoko Ono most surely be shortlisted. Is this fair and just?

Looking at her credentials from the point of view of the average rock punter, we might consider the following: she was, supposedly, the woman who broke up the Beatles; she inherited John Lennon's fortune and controls his estate; she is a Japanese feminist, with a past history as a conceptual artist; she sings like a cat with a crushed tail and has written songs with an unequalled embarrassment factor. Why should any sane person wish to buy a definitive six-CD box set of her music?

It is my belief that much of Yoko Ono's unpopularity is founded on thinly disguised racism, sexism and ignorance. The singing, however, is another matter. Here again I differ.

Many of the tracks from Disc 1, *London Jam*, were originally released as a companion to John Lennon's first solo LP in 1970. The albums were packaged with almost identical covers, sharing some similarities in their sound and their adherence to the Primal Scream theories of Dr Arthur Janov.

"Why" is a good example of the Janov effect, plunging us into the music at a peak intensity which few rock records have matched. The playing is stripped of decoration and Ringo Starr drums like a man with visions of punk and disco buzzing around his head. Lennon's guitar is a revelation throughout. He sounds more driven, less bound by the clichés of the instrument, than any of his more celebrated guitarist contemporaries.

There is a strong sense in these recordings that the Lennons were working to a common goal. John recognised the relationship between Ono's ululating, wordless swoops and screeches and his own desire to push rock beyond its limitations. Later tracks from this period, released on a 1971 album called *Fly*, are more controlled and self-conscious in their experimentation, yet effective. From there on, the going becomes treacherous.

Yoko Ono: Onobox (Rykodisc RCD 10224-29)

of tracks from a double album originally called *Approximately Infinite Universe*. They sound better now than they did in 1972: more than can be said for a previ-

ously unreleased album called *A Story*. Some of the tracks on *Kiss, Kiss, Kiss* are equally excruciating, but even here there is "Walking On Thin Ice" to remind us that Yoko's work has an intensity and honesty too rare in rock.

DAVID TOOP

THE LURE OF DECADENCE AND THE NEED FOR ESCAPE.



WILLEM DAFOE SUSAN SARANDON

A FILM BY PAUL SCHRADER

LIGHT SLEEPER

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Politics and the lost generation

Alice Thomson
finds the youth of a
key constituency
left yawning by
election fever

Mary Ghattas worries about the state of the ozone layer, the old lady down her street, Saddam Hussein's nuclear weapons and finding a cure for cancer. But on election night she will be fast asleep. At 19, she has had enough of politicians. "I don't see the point of it. They are all mouth and trousers. They keep saying they will do things and none of them do. I think they do more harm than good," she says.

More than four million 18-22-year-olds have the right to vote for the first time in the impending general election. They could decide the outcome - but it is notoriously difficult to overcome their apathy.

The Mitcham and Morden constituency in south London is regarded by all parties as a barometer of political opinion. The seat was created in 1974 and was a marginal Labour constituency until 1982, when the Falklands factor and the unpopularity of London Labour gave it to the Conservatives in a by-election. Labour now need a 5 per cent swing to take Mitcham and Morden.

The constituency has none of the rambling houses of neighbouring Wimbledon or the tower blocks of Streatham. The people are solidly middle class, they commute into central London and Croydon during the week and enjoy the local golf course and their back gardens at weekends. There is a growing ethnic population and a couple of council house estates.

Labour thinks it is in with a chance. Unemployment is running at 10.8 per cent, double the figures for 1990. The council is the only big employer, most of the jobs come from small shops and businesses, many of which have collapsed. High unemployment and rising crime have taken their toll. The young have been particularly hard hit by lack of jobs.

The young in Mitcham and Morden are not impressed that they could hold the key to such a vital marginal. After a day spent talking to 18 to 22-year-olds in the area, the impression was one of cynicism and ignorance. Few were interested in party politics though some cared about specific issues: racism, the environment, AIDS, drug abuse and sexism. Most just want a job and money for entertainment.

"Budget, what Budget?" Even those working had often never heard of the Budget. But mention the price of cigarettes or a pint of beer and they all had views. A few



Target audience: Dean Wade (left), and Stephen Smith are typical of the generation that party politicians must win over in order to succeed in Mitcham and Morden

'I don't vote, I don't understand politics and I don't want to have any responsibility when things go wrong'

and that was under a Labour government.

She does not think any of the parties will do much for women or ethnic minorities. "I am black and a woman, the politicians are white and male, they don't understand about discrimination because it is something you just feel."

"If I were a politician I would treat everyone as equals; politely and with respect so that I set an example. I would ask people to recycle all their rubbish and I would give the young jobs so that they can be given a chance to prove themselves. I think SLD may suit me best."

At Deen City Farm, an inner city farm set up in 1973 which sells organic meat and vegetables,

David Rock, aged 21, has just been mucking out the goats. He left his job as a civil servant a year ago and can't find another job, despite sending out 500 handwritten applications.

"I get income support and £10 a week for this job. But at least it keeps me busy, and by living at home rent free I can just about get by on £31 a week," he says. "Our family has always voted Tory but I don't think I can. I'll vote Labour. They seem more concerned about unemployment."

Mr Rock feels his generation is being ignored by the politicians. "It is my children who will be inheriting this earth and none of the parties are doing anything to make it a better place. They are

only interested in finance. I think there is more to life than money, you never hear about the minister for social affairs, it's always that treasury man."

Merton Abbey Mills is the biggest success story of the 1980s in the area. The old cotton mills by the River Wandale have been turned into the Covent Garden of Mitcham, with quaint bookshops and pottery stalls and jugglers performing in the summer.

Late afternoon and Gary Blair, aged 22, a chef, is preparing pizza dough at the Gourmet Pizza Company. "I don't vote. I don't understand politics and I don't want to have any responsibility when things go wrong," he says. Mr Blair has come from Liverpool

via Winchester in search of jobs. "Britain has had it. This place is quiet now, people can't afford pizzas. We get old people who are qualified teachers, bankers and accountants asking if they can wait tables. I don't think any government can help."

The Pollards Hill Estate on the other side of the constituency was built in the 1950s. It has a high crime rate and little except a pub and a youth centre by way of entertainment. Matt and Keith, both aged 22 and part-time workers in a garage, are playing snooker in the Home and Groom. Neither of them will be voting at the election because they have not paid the poll tax. "I would vote Conservative if I could because I hate Neil Kinnock," Matt says. "But I trust John Major, he's one of the boys, he wears safety pins in his suits, doesn't he? I just hope he doesn't put up tax on fags, booze and cars."

According to a Mori poll con-

ducted between February 21 and 25, 18 to 24-year-olds are less likely to vote than any other age group. Twenty-three per cent of 18 to 24-year-olds polled said they would vote Conservative, 29 per cent committed to Labour and 8 per cent would vote for the Liberal Democrats. Thirty-four per cent are still undecided or will not vote.

Martin Minns is head of the youth department at Conservative Central Office and is now busy wooing first-time voters across the country. "We don't like to patronise them, we treat them like adults. They will vote for whichever party makes them better off like all other voters, but their vote is vital," he says. "I think our ace card is John Major. Without question he appeals to the young."

The Labour party has produced a charter for young people which promises better housing facilities, student benefits and employment opportunities. The Liberal Democratic party has a leaflet called: "Politics - What's the point?" and has pledged better training and education programmes. All the parties agree that they are going to have an uphill battle enticing young people to the polling stations.

Nine o'clock in the evening on London Road, Morden, and Dean Wade, aged 22, and Stephen Smith, aged 19, are cleaning out the goldfish in the video shop. "I would vote Conservative, Labour hasn't got itself together and they are not a fit party to take us into Europe. Mr Kinnock seems outdated now compared to Mr Major," says Mr Smith, who is working in the shop part-time.

He went to John Major's old school, Rutlish school, and is now reading business, law and politics at Weybridge College and wants to go to Manchester University.

Labour is not being democratic when it says it wants to scrap private schools and private health care. We need a choice to give us incentive. But I do wish they hadn't brought in student loans."

Mr Wade, the manager, pronounces himself "gobernackod". "I didn't know you were into politics," he says to his colleague. He has not thought how he will vote but says it will probably be Labour. "I don't think a state school is much of a choice and the NHS is a downright lottery. When my mother had an emergency back operation they were wonderful but my sister nearly died of pneumonia."

"Shops are closing down every day along this street. The Conservatives can't seem to get themselves together on the economy. How can you be so sure about them," he says.

"They tax you on everything and when you die they want more. They took £40,000 from my uncle. I think we'd better stick to talking about football and films."

Boarderline cases

Snacking and bullying will be on the curriculum this weekend, when a group of grown men goes back to public school: not to teach, but as pupils.

The course for "boarding-school survivors" is supervised by Nick Duffell, a psychotherapist and a former boarder at Radley, and Rob Bland, a writer, formerly at Christ's Hospital. This time around, the boys are revisiting childhood only in their minds, while they remain physically at an outpost of London University, in Hampstead.

"It is a platitude that people from boarding schools recognise one another by their self-confidence," Mr Duffell says. In his private practice, he says, he began to notice that some identify each other in a different way, through what he describes as "a quality of woundedness". He stresses he is not against sending children away for schooling. "I would suggest that some boarding schools could benefit some children after the age of 14. But not until puberty does a child's peer group become more important than his family."

"My aim is simply to enable men to share their experiences of boarding," he says. Modest enough, yet Mr Duffell believes this subset the first and fiercest taboo instilled by the traditional British school. Tell anyone about a disturbing episode, and you are a sneak. If the course allows people to break this code in safety, Mr Duffell reasons, perhaps the emotional legacy can be unravelled.

Having found it difficult to thread my way through the assorted sneaks and creeps in ten years boarding at Marlborough, I decided to attend the last course. It drew a familiar cross-section of public school products: a television-news producer, a rock impresario, a former convict. The con had walked from the door of one boarding institution straight through the slightly more secure portals of the next.

Mr Duffell asked each of us

Old boys come to terms at last with the alma mater

why we had come. Most of the 16 participants, ranging from their early twenties to late fifties, were unable to answer directly. Some spoke vaguely of a sinking feeling on Sunday evenings, the time when as children they were habitually deposited back at school. Others said they wanted to beat up bullies wherever they found them in adult life. Toasted Tom Browns were not the only ones represented. One or two guilt-stricken Flashmans admitted abusing smaller boys.

Last of all, a tweedy man in his fifties described with a level voice how every day for

'Boarders recognise one another by a quality of woundedness'

five years he had been forced by his pre-school headmaster to stand last in queues, and been humiliated in front of other pupils. How did he put up with it? "My nanny believed that if one cried, one should be left alone and learn not to complain. I learnt well," he said.

Structure was hard to discern during the course, which lasted two weekends, a month apart. Discussion of specific school memories - heroes and villains, say - merged with group exercises. Mr Duffell's technique seemed aimed at altering our attitude to the feelings aroused by each memory.

Early on, we were asked to adopt the role our mothers had played in deciding our fates. Embarrassment had long since evaporated. Men who had earlier denounced sadistic masters, now began

fluting: "He is so happy there, his teachers tell me. Then the fathers had their turn: 'Of course, I hated it too. Blubbed my heart out first. But it did me all the good in the world.' The clichés flowed. Some said they felt relief at being able at last to absolve their parents. Others feared they would repeat the mistakes."

Are parents still as deaf to their children's unhappiness? "The youngest man to have come of the course was 18, the eldest 67," Mr Duffell says. "Mostly it is those in their thirties. That may be an indicator." Nor is it only men who leave public school with mixed feelings. Later in the year Mr Duffell intends to start a series of courses for women.

A month later, the group was bolder. When asked if their attitudes to boarding school had altered in the break, they cut across their earlier objections. If there was consensus, it was that the memories had flooded back and seemed more immediate. "Imagine how you would feel now, if you walked back through the school gates," said Mr Bland, towards the end. Some spoke of experiencing a new compassion for children who are sent away. When he opened his eyes, one participant said he had blown away his prep-school headmaster and matron with a shotgun, then lined up classmates along a cliff-edge, before pushing them off, one by one. "Great!" Mr Bland giggled.

Six months later, what has altered? I recently remarked to a contemporary that I had attended the course. "I would never spend a weekend with a group of men on a course," he said. "Too much like going back to school." He mentioned, before the subject changed, that he intended putting any child from his new marriage down at birth for our alma mater. The old-school tie still binds him. My reaction now? The mention of public school bodes me.

ALEC RAINGER

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From virginal icing to fruity interior, the centrepiece of a wedding is more than a piece of cake

Cultural history, slice by slice



Tiers before bedtime: the traditional wedding cake carries a multitude of messages

for the crumbs to put under their pillows so they can dream of sweethearts. Sometimes it was "a sieve containing bread and cheese" which assailed the bridal pair. Nor will a modern girl blush - though she might grind her teeth - at the undeniable fact that the looming great plum-cake is a blatant symbol of herself. Hence the general excitement and approval

when she and the groom plunge the knife together into the virgin icing. Cake-makers, says the author, have always had a problem: either the icing is so virtuously hard you buckle the knife, or so easy and yielding the pillars sink in and it can't carry the responsibilities of a top tier for the future baby. Shucks, we girls just can't get it right. But the bride might quail at

some of the mutations - indeed, the logical extensions - of the British "Edwardian" traditional cake. In Bangalore they turn out huge tiered cakes made of food cardboard, with a wedge of fruit cake inserted into the base for realistic cutting. In Japan they have also cottoned on to the fact that nobody particularly likes eating wedding-cake, so build elaborate but

inedible structures 4ft high. "Even the icing is hard wax," Mr Charsley says. "A decorated knife has to be thrust into a slot at the back of the cake. A mechanism may then respond with a dramatic cloud of steam." No, on the whole, don't tell the bride about those.

How the whole thing got so out of hand is fascinating to trace. Mr Charsley sees the 20th century cake as having come together out of different traditions: the medieval habit of feasting on rich fruit cakes, the 18th-century development of icing, and the "Puritan" diversion of a white wedding, which was devised entirely to disguise the sexual theme of marriage. Most of all, the towering cake is a survival of the Victorian mania for piling up all dishes in formal pyramids.

Somewhat, the cake strikes a chord: as Mr Charsley says, everyone creates their own symbolism around it. I tried, but could only get the image of a tiny bride and groom teetering on an improbable pinnacle of happiness, while their friends and relatives nibble away at the structure that supports them. "See?" he said. "Everyone creates their own symbols."

But cakes are changing. Mr Charsley puts this down to social evolution and sugarpaste technology. "As marriage ceases to be a standard contract and becomes a very personal arrangement, the standard wedding-cake will decline," he says. "You get softer, more individual outlines with sugarpaste." He cites a couple, each with children from a previous marriage, whose cake was "surmounted by a delightful model in natural colours, of themselves together on a settee with their new combined family perched around them". It is not suggested where divorced spouses might feature on such a cake. Perhaps they could be disgruntled caryatids, holding up the top tier while their feet sink dangerously into the icing below.

LIBBY PURVES

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Serving a sentence of hard labour

A Commons report has focused concern on the rival merits of home or hospital delivery. Liz Gill asks whether too much medical intervention at birth could be a cause of post-natal problems

Tknowing that only a couple of generations ago her chances of dying in childbirth would have been high, today's new mother may feel it appears ungrateful to complain about a few post-natal piles.

Yet such ailments, along with backaches, headaches, depression, extreme fatigue and stress incontinence (an occasional loss of bladder control) can overshadow women's lives for years. And a recent survey by Birmingham University, *Health After Childbirth*, estimates that at least one symptom may affect nearly half the 650,000 women who have babies every year.

The debate over modern birth practices arose again this week with the report of the Commons Select Committee on Health which called for more home deliveries and an expanded role for midwives. Such moves, some experts believe, could improve not only a woman's experience of labour but her long-term health.

The whole area of post-natal well-being has been neglected, according to Dr Cathryn Glazener, a Wellcome research fellow in the subject at the health service's research unit at Aberdeen University. Yet, she says, it is an area that can have a profound effect on mothers and babies and subsequently on future generations.

"If you have a bad experience you may react badly to your children and that can have long-lasting effects in later life."

Although an obstetrician herself, Dr Glazener would welcome a move towards making midwives the primary carers, particularly if it ensured continuity of care. "That would do more to improve post-natal health than any other measure," she says. "It would also hopefully mean fewer (Caesarean) sections and forceps deliveries, which tend to be initiated by legislation-wary doctors."

Dr Glazener, who is analysing the results of a study into the post-natal care of a thousand women, says the subject is very under-researched. "In ante-natal work you can see dramatic results; at delivery you can rescue the most appalling cases. But post-natal work is not life and death stuff."

Just because maternal mortality has in the main been cracked, she says, it is now assumed that you have the baby and just go away and get better. "Yet we found lots of physical symptoms — what you might call 'minor problems' but which mean many women are suffering things that may be painful or debilitating. At least one

seems to happen to almost everyone. These can add up."

Physical ailments following childbirth are not the only area of neglect, says Dr Glazener. "There are also profound psychological changes in the transition to motherhood which the professionals do not prepare mothers for because even they do not properly understand them."

A lot of post-natal depression, she believes, goes unrecognised because it is not an illness as such.

Her survey studied women's health in the immediate period after birth as well as in the longer term. "Even if you are not clinically affected, what happens in the short term is still very important," she says. "I had a lot of problems

'In many cases women are still so rushed. They are treated like greyhounds making for the finishing tape'

myself breast-feeding my first baby which went on for months and because of them it took me a long time to adjust to her."

The Birmingham report also looked at the frequency and range of such problems among its 11,700 subjects, of whom around 40 per cent were first-time mothers. It concentrated on symptoms that arose within three months of a birth and lasted more than six weeks. The most distant delivery it covered was nine years.

Conditions such as pains or weakness in the limbs, visual disturbances, migraines, dizziness and tingling sensations in the hands affected between one and three per cent of mothers. Others were far more common, including backache (14 per cent), haemorrhoids (8 per cent), depression (9.1 per cent) and extreme fatigue (12.2 per cent).

The study also examined the connection such problems may have with anaesthesia and obstetric procedures as well as the age, social class and marital status of the mother.

Dr Christine MacArthur, a research fellow in the department of

public health and epidemiology at the university, points to a number of interesting associations that this area of the study turned up.

"Headaches, for instance, were associated with epidurals only when backache occurred as well. Similarly, neck ache was only associated with epidurals if there was back pain too; otherwise it was linked with long labour."

Fatigue, on the other hand, tended to be linked to social factors, particularly single parenthood; haemorrhoids with delivery factors such as a longer labour and a bigger baby; stress incontinence with older mothers.

Researchers excluded any complaints that had existed before the birth and any that could not be precisely dated, so the incidence may be even greater than the report suggests.

"At the moment we do not know how severe these symptoms are or their effect on women's lives," says Dr MacArthur, who has three children of her own. What they do know is that a lot of women do not go to their doctors. Of the 14 per cent who had stress incontinence, only a third went back to their doctors for help.

Women may be too stoical, she says. "I am sure that happens. You have a friend who has something similar and you think, 'Oh well, that's it, we just have to put up with it.'"

"Of course some people will say the opposite: that it is just women being neurotic. But if that were the case, those who complained about anxiety and depression would be more likely to complain about other symptoms as well and there was no indication of that."

She regards the study as a starting point for other, more detailed, research. "At this stage we can only say there are associations, not causes. These are hypotheses for further testing. We want to look at the severity and the impact on quality of life." There are also cultural aspects to be researched. A lot of women reporting pains in the limbs, for example, were Asian, and many Asians in Britain have diets deficient in vitamin D which is not compensated for by sunlight.

Dr Joe Jordan, a spokesman for the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, says the sort of symptoms highlighted by the study are often the stuff of musical jokes. "Yet they are no joke to a new mother whose life has been turned upside down and who is in no condition psychologically to cope with any ailment." Suffering is not the automatic legacy of motherhood, he says.



Women on the edge of a nervous breakdown: childbirth can have damaging psychological as well as physical consequences

The actual problems mentioned in the survey are well recognised by obstetricians, according to Dr Jordan, but he and his colleagues were surprised to see how many women have them. He feels it has highlighted the importance of asking mothers about such problems when they attend check-ups.

Shelia Kitzinger, a writer and researcher on birth and related issues, believes many of the problems stem from interventionist techniques. "Things have improved but in many cases women are still so rushed. They are treated like greyhounds making for the finishing tape."

The attitude of "the quicker the better", she believes, means labour is speeded up, pain relief is given

without thinking of long-term consequences and women are told to push too hard, too soon. "Other mothers give birth without someone hovering over them shouting push, push, push all the time."

Most episiotomies, Ms Kitzinger believes, are not necessary, but result from women being rushed through the second stage of labour. She encourages women to have a birth plan and to work closely with their carers so that they can make informed choices.

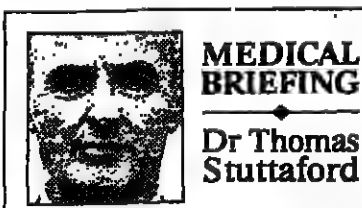
Where symptoms do occur, she says, they may be trivialised or brushed aside. Women often do not know what to expect, so do not protest. Furthermore, there is often no real follow-up. "If a woman's womb is not actually falling out when she goes for her six-week check-up she is considered to be doing well," says Ms Kitzinger.

Dr MacArthur is not sure what, if any, avoidance measures women can take if complaints arise from a long labour or a bigger baby or being older. While many conditions can be treated, women may not recognise them as medical conditions. "Extreme fatigue could be related to undiagnosed and untreated anaemia. But how many women go to the doctor with that thinking it might have a medical cause?" she asks. "They think it's because they have been up half the night."

Dr Glazener believes the ideal is the "domino" (domiciliary in and out) system where the woman delivers the baby in hospital but then returns home six hours later; throughout she is accompanied by the midwife who has overseen her entire pregnancy. "It is the person you relate to, not the place."

Studies such as hers and Dr MacArthur's raise questions about women returning to work when they are perhaps not fully restored to health. Certainly we should not expect superwomen, says Dr Glazener. "I think it takes at least a year to get back to normal and women who go back quickly can be vulnerable. On the other hand, it sometimes helps with this sense of shock if you go back to doing something you did before as your 'normal' self."

Male cancer that is ignored



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THIS month doctors from all over the world will gather in London at the Institute of Urology to discuss the prostate. This is the gland in the male that encircles the urethra, the tube leading from the bladder.

The prostate secretes three-fifths of the seminal fluid. Its sexual function

and its position (it can only be felt through the rectum), mean that it rarely becomes the lead topic at dinner table conversation. But in this instance, silence has cost lives. Cancer of the prostate kills five times as many men as cancer of the cervix kills women, and is rapidly catching up with breast cancer as a cause of death. Despite these statistics, no visitor from Mars reviewing press reports or listening to government spokesmen as they quite rightly extol the virtues of screening for women would guess the relative importance of these various malignancies.

Although it is little publicised, screening can detect cancer of the prostate. In recent years it has been

shown that a protein, the prostatic specific antigen (PSA), is secreted by the prostate in increasing quantities as the gland enlarges. The normal level of PSA is less than four ug/ml, but this increases slightly in the benign enlargement that affects the majority of men as they reach late middle age. If the PSA level reaches ten ug/ml, 70 per cent of the patients will have a significant cancer of the prostate. However, in older men small pockets of malignant cells can exist in the gland without significant danger to the patient.

Men with a raised PSA should have the prostate examined by ultrasound and, if necessary, needle biopsy. If the tumour is localised, early

surgery gives a 65 per cent chance of surviving for ten years. As well as saving lives, a screening programme would reduce the number of men condemned to suffer lingering ill-health, and pain, for years.

By virtue of their age, or the nature of the disease, not all patients are suitable for radical surgery, and some do better with hormone treatment. But whatever the treatment selected, it is becoming apparent that neither the Institute of Urology nor the general public will accept that preventive screening should be restricted to women while their male partners are allowed to go uninvestigated and undiagnosed, in many cases to an unnecessarily early grave.

Never take the risk

THE measles, mumps and rubella inoculation, MMR, was not available when 17-year-old Nikky Kilbane of Liverpool caught measles as a two-year-old. Her attack of measles was soon forgotten but the virus lived on in her brain and last summer started to make its presence known.

Ms Kilbane's behaviour became disturbed, she complained of headaches, her speech was slurred and her movements were awkward and later restricted. She has now lapsed into coma.

She is suffering from subacute sclerosing panencephalitis (SSPE). The obvious incentive for parents to have their children inoculated when MMR was first introduced was to spare them an almost inevitably unpleasant disease which was frequently complicated by pneumonia, enteritis, damaged ears and eyes and occasionally encephalitis.

If this was not enough to persuade parents to take their



children to the clinic, this column suggested that the one-in-a-million chance of SSPE should decide the issue. In Ms Kilbane's case, the incubation period was unusually long. Subacute sclerosing panencephalitis normally develops within five to ten years. Nobody knows what reacts to a virus, but her symptoms are fairly classic.

The patient's mood usually becomes contrary and awkward, school performance falls off and after several weeks or months of inexplicably disturbed behaviour, localising neurological signs

can be detected. The patient will have fits, develop a spastic paralysis and lapse into coma. The diagnosis can be confirmed by electron microscopy and immunofluorescence, but there is no treatment.

In 1988 there were nearly 200 cases of measles, whereas in the last week of January this year, the peak period for the disease, there were only 182. SSPE is so horrendous, and so unexpected when it strikes, that it is astounding that even 182 parents have taken the risk of allowing their child to develop it.

Flying in danger

CANNY air travellers have always regarded in-flight meals with the gravest suspicion. Ready-prepared cold or recently re-heated food is tailor-made to act as a culture for any lurking salmonella, as several outbreaks of food poisoning have confirmed.

Anxious passengers, as they confine their nourishment to drinks (without ice if cold — nobody knows where the water has come from) and cups of tea or coffee, may be tempted to seek consolation in music or films soundtracks through their headphones. But even this pleasure has now been spoiled. Research by the American Naval Medical Research Institute, published in the journals *Monitor* and *Laryngoscope*, has demonstrated that headphones can be a breeding ground for bacteria. Even before the set of earphones was put on, more than 60 colonies of bacteria on average were cultured from them after an hour. With the addition of the listener's own existing bugs,

the colony count rose ten-fold. No disease was found to have been caused by the headphones, but some of the 51 different strains of bacteria that were isolated were potentially dangerous, and included *Staphylococcus aureus* and the dreaded *Pseudomonas*, both of which are frequent causes of wound infections in hospitals.



Why do I have asthma?

For up to 85% of allergic asthma sufferers the reason could be House Dust Mites.

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Fox's friend pursues the voters

Brian Davies halted the Canadian baby-seal hunt. Now he wants to stop British foxhunting. Michael McCarthy met him

Brian Davies is probably not a well-known name in the shires, where the Pychley, the Cotemore and the Quorn hunt, but it is one they will learn.

He is nothing like the Saturday-morning anti-theft know and loathe, but they will have him for more, very likely, with his mid-Atlantic accent, his talk of direct mail shots and media buys and, especially, the photographs of him shaking hands with Britain's party leaders.

He seems the unlikely opponent of foxhunting ever to have stepped on to the British political stage. Burly, white-bearded and nattily dressed, fired with the message, and married to a glamorous woman named Gloria, who partners him in all his doings, he could pass for an American television evangelist. But Mr Davies' vocation is animal welfare. He is the man who, in a 20-year campaign, from 1964, ended the Canadian baby-seal hunt, a bloody annual harvest 250 years old.

In the process the pressure group he founded grew into the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), which now claims nearly a million supporters in eight countries and an annual income from their donations of \$15 million, large parts of which are devoted to high-pressure publicity campaigns against animal cruelty around the world.

Now Mr Davies has come home, metaphorically, and turned his attention and money to the issue of hunting animals with hounds in Britain. He is spending, he says, £1 million on IFAW's anti-hunting campaign in the run-up to the general election.

The claim seems credible enough: his gruesome advertisements, "blood-spattered" images of the kill, can be seen covering full pages in national newspapers and on large hoardings.

Mr Davies, aged 57, is a Welshman who emigrated to Canada in 1955. By his own admission, he was an educational failure. After five years in the Canadian army, he was running a small local animal protection society when a documentary film awoke Canada to the reality of its seal hunt. This large-scale slaughter

of harp seal pups, known as whitecoats, for their short-lived pure-white fur, took place on the ice at the mouth of the St Lawrence river.

Mr Davies became an observer of the hunt, then the leading campaigner against it, and then its eventual vanquisher. In the process he also became famous, influential, and affluent.

He denies that he is rich. He declines to disclose the salary he draws from the huge sums IFAW pulls in for its campaigns, solicited by direct mail, but he is clearly far from poor.

After official hostility drove him from Canada, he set up IFAW's headquarters in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and an English headquarters in Crowborough, East Sussex. He moved to Florida, and he now travels between these locations at will. He is a mid-Atlantic man with an accent to match, half Welsh lilt, half North American twang.

Mr Davies saw the annual slaughter of seals, when the whitecoats were battered and skinned in their thousands — sometimes while still alive — but has never followed a foxhunt or met any foxhunters.

So why has he turned his attention to them? And why now? "I have been looking for a political situation where there was the possibility of raising animal welfare up the agenda of the various political parties and Britain at this time is just perfect," he says.

"We have an election coming up soon, where the government is likely to change hands for a handful of votes. It is the perfect situation to try and move animal welfare along in a political sense, and demonstrate to politicians that there are votes in it."

Mr Davies' talents are those of the American political lobbyist, and he is as pragmatic as they come. Foxhunting, for him, is a means to an end, the issue which will now be capable of dragging animal welfare behind it into a mainstream position on the British political agenda. Not that he is slow in condemning the hunt. "I think it's an awful, wicked



Animal politician: Brian Davies has bought access to the main party leaders by contributing to their funds. Bottom right, his £1 million advertising campaign

thing to be doing, foxhunting. Chasing foxes with what, forty horses, forty dogs, to catch them, and one way or another, tear them to pieces. It's just a wicked, awful thing to do."

As cruel as the seal hunt? "In terms of numbers, no. In terms of the violence inflicted on the animals, absolutely."

He does not work in an emotional way, however, and will not be found with the saboteurs, shouting at the meet. His way of effecting change, he says, is through the democratic political process. The shires had better beware: this is a

new kind of animal, whose most evident attributes are lobbying skills, pragmatism and serious money.

These have quickly brought him an astonishing range of political access. In the past year, IFAW has donated £100,000 to the Labour party, £68,000 to the Tories, and £20,000 to the Liberal Democrats. In each case with no strings attached. This has resulted in meetings and photo-opportunities with John Major and Chris Patten, the Tory party chairman, two meetings with Neil Kinnock, and two with Paddy Ashdown.

Tory pro-hunting diehards are unlikely to realise that pictures of all of them adorn his latest mail shots seeking yet more funds for the hunting fight. One shows a smiling Mr Major, who abstained in the recent hunting vote in the Commons, shaking Mr Davies warmly by the hand.

Mr Davies says he has no particular political allegiance and does not care which party bans hunting, as long as one of them does. However, he admits IFAW's present campaign needs more than just advertisements: it needs a party — and at the moment it

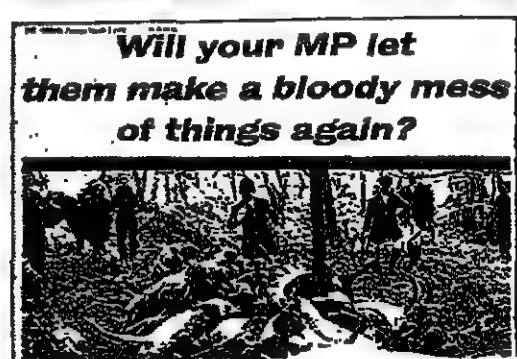
can only be Labour — actively to seek votes with a strong anti-hunting policy. Last week an IFAW-commissioned MORI poll offered the bait in 52 key marginals, it said, the Conservatives could lose if anti-hunting Tories switched to Labour.

Labour will unveil its latest animal welfare campaign today, but even if the party fails to come out strongly against hunting, Mr Davies says he will not be discouraged.

"We will be here at the next election, and the next, and the next," he says. "If Labour loses, I

will focus on raising our membership in historically marginal seats, and my guess is that over four to five years I could produce 2,000 to 3,000 people in each marginal who will vote, and encourage others to vote, for candidates who are opposed to hunting. I suspect that eventually the Conservative party might have a change of mind on this issue, but whether it does or doesn't, it's an issue that won't go away.

"If you can't stop foxhunting in this country of animal lovers, you can't stop it anywhere. Foxhunting is doomed."



Will your MP let them make a bloody mess of things again?

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Sums held in common fund

The Guardianship of Minors Act 1971 had had a specific

Mr Turner had argued that under the 1989 Act a care order was not the appropriate way to deal with truancy from school. Truancy had been a specific ground for making a care order

In his Lordship's judgment, there was much force in that and on the facts the local authority had been right not to make such an application.

As to whether the conditions under section 31 of the 1989 Act had been met, it had been entirely open to the justices to conclude

Solicitors: Gardner Leader.
Newbury: Mr R. W. J. Garbett.
Reading: Griffiths Robertson.
Reading: Kidd Rapinet.
Maidenhead.

Judgment was given in July but not released for publication until the conclusion of criminal proceedings against those involved in the management of

What was envisaged was some form of common fund in which all investors would in some way participate.

The decisions of the Court of Appeal established and recognised a general rule of practice

tended to be separately invested, as a result of their being collectively misapplied by BCI a common pool was created. Because of their shared misfortune the investors would be assumed to have intended the rule not to apply.

3 As the rule was inapplicable the approach which should be

Different test appropriate

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that in the Restrictive Practices Court the applicants and two other companies had pleaded guilty to breaching undertakings

Solicitors: Linklaters & Paynes; Clifford Chance; Treasury Solicitors.

cision that she was intentionally homeless since she had not satisfied the board, as required under section 15 of the Legal Aid Act 1988 that she had reasonable grounds for taking, defending or

Lordship unanswerable. It was rare for committees to take a different view from the single judge but the decision of the committee was not irrational.

Solicitors: Mr Paul Johnson, Oldham Colliery Trustees.

contravention of regulation 2 and the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 in failing to prevent danger from electrical conductors at their factory at Newton Aycliffe, Durham, assembling

permission for development within the green belt on the basis that the proposed development could be carried out outside the green belt.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Pillay, Lord Justice Goss, Lord Justice Gage)

development could not be carried out on non-green belt land, he was not required to carry out a further balancing exercise to consider the degree of damage to the green belt that the proposed development would cause.

note of the terms of section 8 of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968, as amended by section 43 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, requiring re-arraignment within two months of the date of the retail order.

Green belt damage

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BBC 1

- 6.00 **Coffee** (89070) 8.30 **Breakfast News** (57007070)
 9.05 **Kilroy** Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (1353631) 9.50 **Hot Chicks** Paul and Jeanne Rankin prepare noisettes of lamb with herb and olive crust (8286167)
 10.00 **News** regional news and weather (102877) 10.05 **Playdays** (r) (8898902) 10.25 **Bump** (r) (8105964) 10.35 **No Kidding** Family quiz game show (s) (585831)
 11.00 **News** regional news and weather (4303631) 11.05 **Travel Show Extra** Reports on Lyme Regis in Dorset, Mallock in the Peak District of Derbyshire, the Douro Valley region of Portugal and the King Ludwig Way in southern Bavaria (295457) 11.30 **People Today** With the regular Friday guests, Nina Myskow, Nigel Dempster and Russell Grant. Includes News, regional news and weather at 12.00 (9064070)
 12.20 **Pebble Mill** presented by Alan Titchmarsh. Guests include film buff Barry Norman (s) (2791059) 12.55 **Regional News** and weather (5316583)
 1.00 **One O'Clock News** and weather (19148) 1.30 **Neighbours** (Ceefer) (s) (1342483)
 1.50 **Film: Diamond Head** (1962) starring Charlton Heston, Yvette Mimieux and George Chakiris. Sily melodrama about an ambitious Hawaii plantation owner who finds his political career put in jeopardy by his sister's decision to marry a native. Directed by Guy Green (1935178)
 3.35 **Lifeline** Gary Norman makes an appeal on behalf of the Motor Neurone Disease Association (r) (8632070)
 3.50 **Witall** (s) (8620235) 4.05 **Jackanory** Rory McGrath with another Martin Riley story. *Mad Jim Invisibles of Bogart's End* (r) (5231341) 4.20 **The Further Adventures of SuperTed** Cartoon (r) (4044751) 4.30 **Hangar 17** Comedy and music (s) (8377457)
 4.55 **Newsround Extra** How many pop acts really perform live? (5347631) 5.05 **Grange Hill** (Ceefer) (s) (8333457)
 5.35 **Neighbours** (r) (Ceefer) (s) (872780) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
 6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Peter Sissons and Maura Stuart. (Ceefer) Weather (419)
 6.30 **Regional News** (159) Northern Ireland: Neighbours
 7.00 **Wogan** Michael Ball, who represents the UK in this year's Song for Europe, discusses the competition; and Alloway Davis talks about life with her late husband Sammy Davis Jr. Music is provided by Lisa Stansfield (s) (8315)
 7.30 **Tomorrow's World** Includes an item on how San Francisco surgeons are saving defective human hearts by burning holes in them. (Ceefer) (s) (863)
 8.00 **In Sickness and in Health** Alf Garnett and Mrs Hollingbery strike a bargain in tonight's episode of Johnny Speight's enduring comedy. Alf agrees to hang one of Mrs Hollingbery's holy pictures on the wall if she agrees to act as his tonalite. Starring Warren Mitchell and Carmel McSharry. (Ceefer) (s) (8235)
 8.30 **Caught in the Act** Another collection of home video disasters, introduced by Shane Richie. (Ceefer) (s) (1070)
 8.50 **Nine O'Clock News** with Michael Buerk. (Ceefer) Regional news and weather (8664)
 9.30 **Love Hurts** The final episode of Maurice Gran's and Laurence Mark's light-hearted romantic drama finds Tessa (Zoë Wanamaker) in Africa on a mission of mercy and Frank (Adam Faith) in London, deep in business troubles and reassessing their relationship. (Ceefer) (s) (820039)
 10.20 **Film: Silkwood** (1983) A powerful reconstruction of the story of Karen Silkwood (Meryl Streep), a factory worker who discovered the truth about the dangers of exposure to plutonium and met a mysterious death in a car crash. Kurt Russell and Cher co-star. Directed by Mike Nichols. (Ceefer) (s) (145-1-20m Film: *Silkwood* 12.55m Film: *Rasputin - The Mad Monk* (1966) starring Christopher Lee. Flamboyant, wildly inaccurate Hammer version of the life of the Russian monk who exercised a sinister influence over the Romanov dynasty. Directed by Don Sharp (7347623)
 1.55 **Weather** (7611755)



Musical interlude on Wogan: singer Lisa Stansfield (7.00pm)

BBC 2

- 6.45 **Open University: Language and Literature** (8145254). Ends at 7.10
 7.10 **8.00 Breakfast News** (882254)
 8.15 **Westminster** A round-up of news from both Houses (8842322)
 9.00 **News** and weather (7443316) followed by Words and Pictures. (r) (5033631) 2.15 **Weekend Outlook** A guide to the weekend's Open University programmes (r) (7442370)
 2.20 **Sport on Friday** presented by Helen Rolston. The line-up is - Golf: highlights of the Nissan Los Angeles open from California; Rugby Union: previews of tomorrow's five nations' matches - England v Wales and Scotland v France; Football: a look forward to the FA Cup sixth round matches and a review of the week's games. With News and weather at 3.00 and 5.30 (88815)
 4.00 **Catchword** Paul Coia with another round of the game for wordmasters (612)
 4.30 **Searchlight** The second of a five-part series following a year in the life of Richard Seabrook, shepherd and freelance farmworker. This afternoon - spring (r) (886)
 5.00 **A Question of Sport** With Roger Black, Bill Beaumont, Ginny Leng, Craig Chalmers, Alan Smith and Gary Wilkinson (r). (Ceefer) (s) (1693) 5.30 **Top Gear** Includes a look at the challenge faced by Ford's XR3i; the new tyre-tread depth regulations; and a journey through California in a Mustang (148)
 6.00 **Thunderbirds** Cult space-age puppet series created by Gerry Anderson. (Ceefer) (148)
 6.50 **Dr Who** Episode one of the *Sanctuary*, a six-part adventure from the 1970s with Jon Pertwee in the title role. (Ceefer) (827671)
 7.15 **Open Space** London - A Call For Action. Shadowarts minister Mark Fisher, MP, and architect Sir Richard Rogers follow the Thames from east to west on a double-decker bus and point out where they think urban planning has failed (383148)
 8.00 **Public Eye** John Andrew reports from Manchester on one tonight's fight to elect the police and the long-term impact of non-payment (787)
 8.30 **Gardeners' World** Stephen Leach looks at herbs in his quest for garden fragrance; and Geoff Hamilton demonstrates new methods of pruning roses (8912)
 9.00 **Comic anecdotes, songs and sketches: Victoria Wood** (9.00pm)
 9.00 **Victoria Wood as Seen on TV** More comedy from Victoria Wood's first series shown in 1986. With Julia Walters, Celia Imrie and Dora Bryan (r) (6505)
 9.30 **Arrested Crockett - the Artists' War**
 ● CHOICE: A loosely structured but often poignant film from Yugoslavia shows how artists in Croatia have been responding to the largest land war in Europe since 1945. Partly it is the story of the Art Brigades, a group of actors, poets, painters and musicians formed to fight on the front line. Forbidden by the Croatian government to take up arms, the group entertains troops with a travelling cabaret while still prepared to join the battle if necessary. Meanwhile the 70-year-old Ivan Rabuzin, Croatia's leading artist, ponders the war from the isolation of the village he has never left. His paintings, stylised and expressive, reflect the chaos and confusion, being stored underground for safety. His house is bare without them. He hopes he will live to see the conflict resolved (40051)
 10.30 **Newsnight** with Peter Snow (126831)
 11.15 **What the Papers Say** presented by Richard Littlejohn of *The Sun* (574740). Wales: Wales in Westminster 11.45-12.00 *What the Papers Say*
 11.30 **Scrutiny** Iain McWhirter examines the work of parliamentary committees (71524) 12.00 **Weather** (7415484)
 12.05 **Film: Where the Sun Beams** (1989) starring Liza Minnelli. Portuguese drama about a young man who goes to visit his married sister and her husband's farm and discovers hidden passions and the rural life. Directed by Joaquim Pinto (7340910). Ends at 1.35

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode
 The numbers now appearing next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to instantly programme your video recorder with a VideoPlus+ handset. VideoPlus+ can be used with most videos. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. For more details call VideoPlus+ on 0208 212 4910. VideoPlus+ is a registered trademark of VideoPlus+ Ltd, 77 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8JA. VideoPlus+ (V), Pluscode (P) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Marketing Ltd.

ITV

- 6.00 **TV-am** (3750631)
 9.25 **Lucky Ladders** Word association game presented by Lennie Bennett (835167) 9.55 **Thames News** (825254)
 10.00 **The Time ... The Place ...** John Stapleton chairs a topical discussion (870631)
 10.40 **10.40 This Morning** *Maradona* series (4578148)
 12.10 **Rainbow** Learning series for pre-school children (9471508)
 12.30 **News** with Nicholas Owen and Sonia Russell. (Oracle) Weather (7850148) 1.10 **Thames News** (7213351)
 1.20 **Home and Away** (Oracle) (8383167) 1.50 **A Country Practice** (s) (9026167)
 2.20 **Highway to Heaven** Michael Landon stars as the apprentice angel, here helping a father come to terms with his long-time neurotic son. With El Walech (732148)
 3.15 **ITN News** headlines (5752341) 3.20 **Thames News** headlines (738254) 3.25 **The Young Doctors** (8133505)
 3.50 **Cartoon featuring Porky Pig** (r) (472440) 4.05 **Tiny Toon Adventures** Cartoon (5001167) 4.25 **Trailers** Animated adventure series (5246273) 4.40 **Spotz** Comedy drama series set in a fast-food restaurant (389457)
 5.10 **Home and Away** (r) (Oracle) (827898)
 5.55 **6 O'Clock Live** presented by Frank Bough and Joanna Sheldon. Tonight's guest is musician and comedy actor Dudley Moore and comedienne Hale and Pace (882789) *Let's The Day*. Twenty-four hours in the life of an ordinary citizen (16083)
 7.00 **The Help Squad** Viewers problems tackled by Michael Parkinson and his team (883)
 7.30 **Coronation Street** (Oracle) (821)
 8.00 **Surgical Spirit** Benign hospital comedy starring Nicola McAffie as an imperious consultant causing trouble for the rest of the hospital staff. (Oracle) (7631)
 8.30 **Second Thoughts** Perceptive comedy starring James Bolam and Lynda Bellingham as a couple contemplating marriage for the second time. This week they wonder if the romance has gone out of their lives since they have started living together. (Oracle) (s) (3435)
 9.00 **Rich pickings: John Stride tempts Roseanne Bennett** (9.00pm)
 9.00 **Growing Rich**
 ● CHOICE: For all its attempts to invoke Faust, fortune telling and other excursions into the mythological and the supernatural, *Rich Pickings* is a look at the lives of the rich and famous. Having failed that, the show's three heroes are even more determined to escape their dull lives in the Cotswolds. The script hardly offers them a rich range of choices. Carmen (Roseanne Bennett) is at least spirited enough to resist the rich and insecure Sir Bernard (John Stride), only to end up in a chicken factory. Laura (Caroline Harker) is heading for a shotgun marriage to the boy next door and Annie (Claire Hackett) looks like falling victim to a New Zealand sheep farmer. And all the while the Devil Cakes, in the sinister guise of chauffeur Martin Kemp. The girls seem not to have a chance, though there are four more episodes to go. (Oracle) (s) (8803)
 10.00 **News at Ten** with Sue Neville and Alistair Stewart. (Oracle) Weather (33107) 10.30 **LWT News** and weather (865803)
 10.40 **The London Programme** Trevor Phillips investigates whether the government's election reforms are working in London (471833)
 11.15 **Married ... with Children** Domestic comedy (46803)
 11.45 **Dial Midnight** Phone-in show including a dating service and an in-house psychic. Plus guest Dudley Moore (182612)
 1.05am **The James Whale Radio Show** The inescapable chat show hosts make life uncomfortable for another collection of phone-in callers (240371)
 2.10 **American Gladiators** More tests of muscle and ingenuity (512220) 3.10 **Cinemamagazine** The latest news from the American movie scene (3780545)
 3.40 **Raw Power** Rock video magazine (s) (447113)
 4.35 **Garrison's Garden** Second world war drama series about a group of irregular British army men on active service in Europe behind enemy lines (530025)
 5.30 **ITN News** with Phil Fomen (86622). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **Channel 4 Daily** (5758273) 9.25 **Schools** (5414583)
 12.00 **The Parliament Programme** presented by Sarah Baxter. Includes Sir Robin Day interviewing a leading politician (23780)
 12.30 **Business Daily** The latest news and comment from the world's financial centres (76531)
 1.00 **Sesame Street** Early learning series (70186)
 1.05 **Film: Virginia City** (1940, b/w). The Enrol Flynn season continues with this civil war western in which Flynn plays a Union officer ordered to prevent a shipment of gold reaching the Southern lines. A strong supporting cast includes Randolph Scott, Humphrey Bogart and Miriam Hopkins. Directed by Michael Curtiz (4079453)
 4.15 **Film: Joe MacDougal** (1940, b/w). Comedy short starring George O'Hanlon as a man who sets out to break all the casino banks from Las Vegas to Monte Carlo (5246631)
 4.30 **Countdown** Richard Whitley presents another round of the words and numbers game (s) (564)
 5.00 **Cueing Edge** Looking for Billy. A documentary about his family's search for Billy Dunne, who disappeared without trace in Dublin in June 1987 but has since been in contact following Monday's programme (r) (8896)
 6.00 **Happy Days** Nostalgic high school comedy series set in 1950s Milwaukee, starring Henry Winkler (457)
 6.30 **Tonight with Jonathan Ross** Includes singer Barry White (s) (708)
 7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Dermot Murnaghan and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext) Weather (201633) 7.50 **First Reaction** (453490)
 8.00 **Brookside** Soap set in suburban Merseyside (Ceefer) (s) (5273)
 8.30 **Short Stories: Stranger in the Family**
 ● CHOICE: Ewa Cieszkowska's film is hardly comfortable viewing but brain damage is not a comfortable subject. Neil Fitzwilliam has a busy life as an actor, dancer and charity worker when he is involved in a serious car accident. He made an almost complete physical recovery but sustained brain injuries that changed his personality. His wife, Adrienne, and two young sons have to endure a Jekyll and Hyde character, sweet and tender one moment and impossibly abusive the next. He cannot work and has little memory. The film records with stark intimacy Neil's rage and Adrienne's anguish and his powerful testimony to the willingness of ordinary people to expose their inner lives to the camera (4780)
 9.00 **Cheers** More Boston barroom comedy starring Ted Danson, Kirstie Alley and, tonight, Celeste Holm. (Teletext) (s) (4902)
 9.30 **Flowering Passions** Gardening series presented by Anne Pavord. This week top growers pick their favourite plants. (Teletext) (52167)
 10.00 **Roseanne**
 ● CHOICE: Roseanne Barr is now called Roseanne Arnold and her figure is a little trimmer, but addicts of the show can be assured that otherwise nothing has changed. Rasping one-liners, often followed by pregnant silences, are still the style as we follow the all-American blue-collar family through its tensions and embarrassments. The main source of conflict tonight is over teenage daughter Becky's desire to go on the pill. It is a classic example of Roseanne's ability to use the comedy format for a serious issue. We laugh but this is really no joke. As always the strengths of the show include the economy of the writing, which manages the maximum wit from the fewest words, and the perfect straight man in John Goodman as Roseanne's lumbering husband. (Teletext) (s) (31708)
 10.30 **Whose Line Is It Anyway?** Ad-hoc comedy series hosted by Clive Anderson. With Ryan Stiles and Greg Proops (40457)
 11.00 **The World** With guests including actress Tara Fitzgerald and the Red Hot Chili Peppers (s) (12235)
 12.00 **Film: Pink Floyd - The Wall** (1982). *The Rock on the Box* session continues with Alan Parker's musical drama based on the Pink Floyd album 'The Wall' centred on the life of a pop star, played by Bob Geldof (711991)
 1.45am **Tonight with Jonathan Ross** (r) (s) (76303). Ends at 2.15



Making light of serious issues: Roseanne Arnold (10.00pm)

SATellite

- SKY ONE**
 ● Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites.
 6.00am *The DJ Set Show* (80701167) 8.40 *Mike Peasepot* (80704168) 8.55 *Playboy* (8070222) 9.10 *Cartoon* (8070222) 9.30 *The New Line* to be (8070222) 10.00 *Muscle* (43022) 10.30 *The Young Doctors* (8070222) 11.00 *The Back and the Beautiful* (20330) 11.30 *The Young and the Restless* (25542) 12.30pm *Bernie Mac* (19234) 1.30 *Another World* (8070222) 2.30 *Santa Barbara* (8070222) 3.45 *Wife of the Week* (8070222) 4.15 *The DJ Set Show* (80701167) 4.30 *Diff'rent Strokes* (8070222) 5.00 *Switched* (3180) 5.30 *Factor* (8070222) 6.00 *Cartoon* (4051) 7.00 *Love at First Sight* (8070222) 7.30 *Reps to Riches* (82341) 8.00 *Hunter* (8070222) 8.30 *WWF Superstars of Wrestling* (22564) 11.00 *Freddie's Nightmares* (8070222) 11.30 *Rocky Horror* (8070222) 12.00 *WWF Superstars of Wrestling* (8070222) 1.00 *Freddie's Nightmares* (8070222) 1.30 *Rocky Horror* (8070222) 2.00pm *WWF Superstars of Wrestling*

SKY NEWS

- Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites.
 News on the hour.
 6.00am *Surprise* (8070222) 8.30 *Midnight* (8070222) 10.00 *Dayline* (40544) 10.30 *Morris* 1990-1991 (78254) 11.00 *Newsline* (82554) 12.30pm *Good Morning America* (14099) 1.30 *Good Morning America* (15525) 2.30 *Parliament Live* (81967) 3.30 *The Late Show* (42167) 4.30 *Morning America* (15525) 5.30 *Parliament Live* (81967) 6.30 *Newsline* (82554) 6.50 *Newsline* (82554) 7.00 *Newsline* (82554) 7.30 *Newsline* (82554) 8.00 *Newsline* (82554) 8.30 *Newsline* (82554) 9.00 *Newsline* (82554) 9.30 *Newsline* (82554) 10.00 *Newsline* (82554) 10.30 *Newsline* (82554) 11.00 *Newsline* (82554) 11.30 *Newsline* (82554) 12.00 *Newsline* (82554) 12.30 *Newsline* (82554) 1.00 *Newsline* (82554) 1.30 *Newsline* (82554) 2.00pm *Newsline* (82554) 2.30 *Newsline* (82554) 3.00 *Newsline* (82554) 3.30 *Newsline* (82554) 4.00 *Newsline* (82554) 4.30 *Newsline* (82554) 5.00 *Newsline* (82554) 5.30 *Newsline* (82554) 6.00 *Newsline* (82554) 6.30 *Newsline* (82554) 7.00 *Newsline* (82554) 7.30 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